

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILLS 36 & 186 AND SENATE BILL 405

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; CREATING A STANDARDIZED  
REGISTRATION PLATE FOR WORTHY PUBLIC PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR A  
SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECAL FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE FAMILIES OF  
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY;  
PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECAL TO RECOGNIZE FFA,  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA; PROVIDING FOR A  
SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECAL TO RECOGNIZE LEA COUNTY AS A  
GEOGRAPHIC REGION KNOWN AS AN ENERGYPLEX; MAKING  
APPROPRIATIONS.

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] STANDARDIZED REGISTRATION PLATES FOR  
WORTHY PUBLIC PURPOSES--SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECALS.--

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underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

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1           A. For a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00), which shall  
2 be in addition to the regular motor registration fee, the  
3 department shall issue standardized registration plates with  
4 space for a special registration decal as may be authorized by  
5 statute for worthy public purposes; provided that the  
6 department shall only issue a special registration decal if the  
7 requesting person submits proof satisfactory to the department  
8 that the person is eligible to receive the special registration  
9 decal requested. The fee collected for each registration plate  
10 shall be retained by the department and is appropriated to the  
11 department for the manufacture and issuance of the registration  
12 plate. No two owners shall be issued identically lettered or  
13 numbered registration plates.

14           B. The authorizing statute for a special  
15 registration decal shall provide for the collection of fees  
16 that, at a minimum, shall cover the costs to the division of  
17 development, manufacture and issuance of the decal.

18           C. Worthy public purpose registration plates, on  
19 the standardized areas, shall:

20                   (1) display the colors of the state flag, with  
21 red lettering on a yellow background;

22                   (2) display the phrases "New Mexico USA" and  
23 "Land of Enchantment";

24                   (3) provide a space for applying a special  
25 registration decal, centered at the left edge of the plate

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1 between the attachment holes, beginning one-fourth inch in from  
2 the edge of the plate and having the following dimensions:

3 (a) four and one-eighth inches in  
4 height; and

5 (b) three and one-eighth inches in  
6 width; and

7 (4) provide a vehicle registration number, to  
8 be assigned by the division, that consists of five alphanumeric  
9 characters displayed to the right of the special decal area.

10 D. Special registration decals, except for the  
11 standard dimensions specified in Paragraph (3) of Subsection C  
12 of this section, shall be left to the design discretion of the  
13 division, in consultation with the worthy public purpose  
14 interest group that requests the special registration decal.

15 E. Special registration decals, when authorized by  
16 statute for a particular worthy public purpose interest group,  
17 shall meet the requirements specified in this subsection prior  
18 to issuance by the division. The worthy public purpose  
19 interest group, no later than the effective date of the  
20 authorizing statute, shall:

21 (1) provide evidence acceptable to the  
22 division that it will generate a minimum number of prepaid  
23 applications as determined by the division for the special  
24 registration decal;

25 (2) provide a prepayment to the division in an

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1 amount sufficient to cover the initial order for the special  
2 registration decal;

3 (3) provide a sample of the requested artwork  
4 design in a format specified by the manufacturer for the  
5 specialized registration decal; and

6 (4) in cases where the authorizing statute  
7 includes revenue-sharing with distribution directed to a  
8 particular group or fund, show that the recipient is a  
9 governmental entity or a fund authorized for the use of a  
10 governmental entity.

11 F. The division may promulgate rules for  
12 implementation of the provisions of this section."

13 SECTION 2. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is  
14 enacted to read:

15 "[NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECALS--INITIAL  
16 FEES.--The department shall issue special registration decals  
17 for use on standardized registration plates pursuant to Section  
18 1 of this 2017 act for the following purposes and fees, which  
19 fees shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle  
20 registration fees; provided that the fees established in this  
21 subsection shall be waived for each registration period in  
22 which a validating sticker is issued under the provisions of  
23 Section 66-3-17 NMSA 1978 in lieu of the issuance of a  
24 registration plate with a special registration decal:

25 A. for a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), the

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1 department shall issue a fallen officer family support special  
2 registration decal indicating support of the families of law  
3 enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. The  
4 fee collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be paid to the  
5 state treasurer for credit to the peace officers', New Mexico  
6 mounted patrol members' and reserve police officers' survivors  
7 fund for distribution pursuant to the Peace Officers', New  
8 Mexico Mounted Patrol Members' and Reserve Police Officers'  
9 Survivors Supplemental Benefits Act; and

10 B. for a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), the  
11 department shall issue an energyplex special registration decal  
12 indicating recognition of Lea county as a geographic area that  
13 is among the national leaders in energy mineral production.  
14 The fee collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be  
15 distributed to the economic development department for projects  
16 developed under the Local Economic Development Act."

17 SECTION 3. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is  
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL REGISTRATION DECALS--RECURRING  
20 FEES.--

21 A. A special registration decal may be authorized  
22 by statute for use on the standardized registration plate  
23 pursuant to Section 1 of this 2017 act with an annual renewal  
24 requirement. The department shall issue special registration  
25 decals for any purposes and fees pursuant to this section,

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1 which fees shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle  
2 registration fees. The owner shall apply and pay the specified  
3 fee each year to retain the special registration decal.

4 B. For a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), the  
5 department shall issue a special registration decal indicating  
6 support for FFA, formerly known as future farmers of America.  
7 The fee collected pursuant to this subsection shall be  
8 distributed to and is appropriated to the board of regents of  
9 New Mexico state university for the New Mexico department of  
10 agriculture to fund statewide programs for active future  
11 farmers of America chapters."