

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 598

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLOTTACH, VIEBROCK, CRAWFORD, WHORTON,
BISHOP, GREEN (Co-sponsors), THRELKELD, PURGASON, DUSENBERG, MILLER AND MOORE.

Read 1st time March 5, 2003, and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1497L.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 301.130, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to special license plates.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 301.130, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 301.130, to read as follows:

301.130. 1. The director of revenue, upon receipt of a proper application for registration, required fees and any other information which may be required by law, shall issue to the applicant a certificate of registration in such manner and form as the director of revenue may prescribe and a set of license plates, or other evidence of registration, as provided [herein] **by this section**. Each set of license plates shall bear the name or abbreviated name of this state, the words "SHOW-ME STATE", the month and year in which the registration shall expire, and an arrangement of numbers or letters, or both, as shall be assigned from year to year by the director of revenue. **The plates shall also contain fully reflective material with a common color scheme and design for each type of license plate issued pursuant to this chapter. The plates shall be clearly visible at night, and shall be aesthetically attractive.** Special plates for qualified disabled veterans will have the "DISABLED VETERAN" wording on the license plates in preference to the words "SHOW-ME STATE" and special plates for members of the national guard will have the "NATIONAL GUARD" wording in preference to the words "SHOW-ME STATE".

2. The arrangement of letters and numbers of license plates shall be uniform throughout each classification of registration. **The director may provide for the arrangement of the**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. Matter in boldface type in the above law is proposed language.

17 **numbers in groups or otherwise, and for other distinguishing marks on the plates.**

18 3. [The background of all license plates, or the letters and numerals thereof, shall be
19 coated with a material which will reflect the lights of other vehicles. The nature and
20 specifications of this material shall be determined after a public hearing by the director of
21 revenue, director of prison industries, and superintendent of the state highway patrol, and shall
22 meet the standards established by the state transportation department.

23 4. Figures on license plates, except those which may be used to designate gross weights
24 for which commercial motor vehicles are registered, shall not be less than three inches in height
25 and the strokes thereof not less than five-sixteenths of an inch in width. In the case of
26 motorcycles and motortricycles, the letters and figures shall be not less than one inch in height
27 and the strokes thereof one-eighth of an inch in width. The director may provide for the
28 arrangement of the numbers in groups or otherwise, and for other distinguishing marks on the
29 plates.

30 5.] All property-carrying commercial motor vehicles to be registered at a gross weight
31 in excess of twelve thousand pounds, all passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicles, local
32 transit buses, school buses, trailers, semitrailers, motorcycles, motortricycles, motorscooters and
33 driveaway vehicles shall be registered with the director of revenue as provided for in subsection
34 3 of section 301.030, but only one license plate shall be issued for each such vehicle **except as**
35 **provided in this subsection. The applicant for registration of any property-carrying**
36 **commercial motor vehicle may request and be issued two license plates for such vehicle,**
37 **and if such plates are issued the director of revenue may assess and collect an additional**
38 **charge from the applicant in an amount not to exceed the fee prescribed for personalized**
39 **license plates in subsection 1 of section 301.144.**

40 [6.] 4. The plates issued to manufacturers and dealers shall bear the letter "D" preceding
41 the number, and the director may place upon the plates other letters or marks to distinguish
42 commercial motor vehicles and trailers and other types of motor vehicles.

43 [7.] 5. No motor vehicle or trailer shall be operated on any highway of this state unless
44 it shall have displayed thereon the license plate or set of license plates issued by the director of
45 revenue and authorized by section 301.140. Each such plate shall be securely fastened to the
46 motor vehicle in a manner so that all parts thereof shall be plainly visible and reasonably clean
47 so that the reflective qualities thereof are not impaired. License plates shall be fastened to all
48 motor vehicles except trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors licensed in excess of twelve
49 thousand pounds on the front and rear of such vehicles not less than eight nor more than
50 forty-eight inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The
51 license plates on trailers, motorcycles, motortricycles and motorscooters shall be displayed on
52 the rear of such vehicles, with the letters and numbers thereon right side up. The license plate

53 on **buses, other than school buses, and on** trucks, tractors, truck tractors or truck-tractors
54 licensed in excess of twelve thousand pounds shall be displayed on the front of such vehicles not
55 less than eight nor more than forty-eight inches above the ground, with the letters and numbers
56 thereon right side up **or if two plates are issued for the vehicle pursuant to subsection 5 of**
57 **this section, displayed in the same manner on the front and rear of such vehicles.** The
58 license plate or plates authorized by section 301.140, when properly attached, shall be prima
59 facie evidence that the required fees have been paid.

60 [8.] 6. (1) The director of revenue shall issue annually a tab or set of tabs as evidence
61 of the annual payment of registration fees and the current registration of a vehicle in lieu of the
62 set of plates[; except that the director shall annually issue a new license plate or set of plates as
63 provided in this section for vehicles registered pursuant to subsection 2 of section 301.277,
64 commercial motor vehicles in excess of twelve thousand pounds, trailers, buses and dealers].

65 (2) The vehicle owner to whom a tab or set of tabs is issued shall affix and display such
66 tab or tabs [on the middle] **in the designated area** of the license plate, no more than one per
67 plate.

68 (3) A tab or set of tabs issued by the director when attached to a vehicle in the prescribed
69 manner shall be prima facie evidence that the registration fee for such vehicle has been paid.

70 (4) Except as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the director of revenue shall
71 issue plates for a period of at least five years.

72 (5) For those commercial motor vehicles and trailers registered pursuant to section
73 301.041, the plate issued by the director of revenue shall be a permanent nonexpiring license
74 plate for which no tabs shall be issued. Nothing in this section shall relieve the owner of any
75 vehicle permanently registered pursuant to this section from the obligation to pay the annual
76 registration fee due for the vehicle. The permanent nonexpiring license plate shall be returned
77 to the director of revenue upon the sale or disposal of the vehicle by the owner to whom the
78 permanent nonexpiring license plate is issued, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement
79 commercial motor vehicle when the owner files a supplemental application with the Missouri
80 highway reciprocity commission for the registration of such replacement commercial motor
81 vehicle. Upon payment of the annual registration fee, the director of revenue shall issue a
82 certificate of registration or other suitable evidence of payment of the annual fee, and such
83 evidence of payment shall be carried at all times in the vehicle for which it is issued.

84 (6) Upon the sale or disposal of any vehicle permanently registered under this section,
85 or upon the termination of a lease of any such vehicle, the permanent nonexpiring plate issued
86 for such vehicle shall be returned to the director and shall not be valid for operation of such
87 vehicle, or the plate may be transferred to a replacement vehicle when the owner files a
88 supplemental application with the Missouri highway reciprocity commission for the registration

89 of such replacement vehicle. If a vehicle which is permanently registered under this section is
90 sold, wrecked or otherwise disposed of, or the lease terminated, the registrant shall be given
91 credit for any unused portion of the annual registration fee when the vehicle is replaced by the
92 purchase or lease of another vehicle during the registration year.

93 [9.] 7. The director of revenue may prescribe rules and regulations for the effective
94 administration of this section. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of
95 this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of
96 section 536.024, RSMo.

97 **8. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, owners of motor**
98 **vehicles other than apportioned motor vehicles or commercial motor vehicles licensed in**
99 **excess of eighteen thousand pounds gross weight may apply for special personalized license**
100 **plates. Vehicles licensed for eighteen thousand pounds that display special personalized**
101 **license plates shall be subject to the provisions of subsections 1 and 2 of section 301.030.**