

HB 835 -- Specialty License Plates

Sponsor: Cunningham (86)

This bill creates new application procedures for new non-military specialty license plates.

An organization's application for license plates must include the specialty plate fees from at least 100 eligible applicants who plan to purchase the plate if approved and an application fee of not more than \$5,000.

All moneys received by the Department of Revenue for the review and development of new specialty plates, excluding the \$25 specialty license plate fee, will be deposited in the newly created Specialty Plate Fund. Excess funds will be transferred to the State Highway Department Fund. The department must give public notice of any proposed specialty plate within four weeks of the submission of the application, and written testimony concerning the proposal must be submitted to the department by November 30 of the year of filing.

The department is required to submit all applications to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight or its successor during a regular session of the General Assembly. If a specialty license plate is approved by the committee, the organization will submit the proposed art design for the plate to the department within 60 days of approval. The plate design must match standards set by the department. If the plate is not approved, 97% of the application fee and all of the specialty plate fees will be refunded. If an application for a special license plate is turned down by the joint committee, the organization may request a hearing before the committee to review the determination.

Organizations may charge an emblem-use authorization fee.

The department must begin production within one year of approval of a specialty plate and will issue a specialty plate to any applicant who meets the requirements for issuance of the specialty plate other than an owner of an apportioned vehicle or a commercial motor vehicle licensed in excess of 18,000 pounds gross weight.

New and renewed applications for approved specialty plates must be accompanied by an additional fee of \$25 and the appropriate emblem-use authorization statement. No other fee for personalization will be charged.