

HB 1374 -- SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE

SPONSOR: Crawford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 15 to 3.

This bill allows for a special license plate. The license plate will bear the words "RESPECT LIFE" and an image of a single red rose.

To obtain this plate, a person must get an emblem-use authorization statement from the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion Support Fund, which is created, and pay the fee of \$25 per set of plates if annually registered or \$50 if biennially registered. The authorization statement will be presented to the Department of Revenue at the time of registration. The fee charged for personalized plates will not apply to this plate, and there will be no limit on the number of sets of plates issued.

The General Assembly may appropriate moneys annually from the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion Support Fund to the Department of Revenue to offset costs incurred for collecting and transferring contributions. Until the amount in this fund exceeds \$1 million, not more than half of the money credited to the fund plus all investment earnings credited to the fund during the previous fiscal year will be available for disbursement. When the State Treasurer certifies that assets in the fund exceed \$1 million, all earnings plus future credits to the fund from all sources will be available for disbursement. The bill specifies how the fund will be used.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. Estimated Effect on Other State Funds of an income of \$168,846 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2005, an income of \$232,423 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2006, and an income of \$231,965 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help fund alternatives to abortion.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Crawford; Campaign Life for Missouri; Missouri Catholic Conference; Open Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center; and Missouri Right to Life.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that first amendment rights are at question, and political slogans do not belong on license plates.

Testifying against the bill were Pro-Choice Missouri; American

Civil Liberties of Eastern Missouri; and Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill gave informational testimony.

Others testifying on the bill was Missouri Family Network.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst