

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2647

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILSON.

5897H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 26.140, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to license plates for consular officers.

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

Section A. Section 26.140, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 26.140 and 301.3064, to read as follows:

26.140. Whenever any consular officer shall have registered as such with the Department of State of the United States and has been issued an exequatur or a diplomatic note by the Department of State, the governor shall issue or cause to be issued to such consular officer an identification card with a short statement of his **or her** rights and privileges as such, identifying him **or her** as a consular officer for the country he **or she** represents. "Consular officers", as used in this section, shall be deemed to include consuls general, consuls, vice consuls, consular agents, honorary consuls, and none other. Such consular officers are authorized to use a motor vehicle identification plate **issued under section 304.3064** identifying him **or her** as an official consular officer. Any person other than a consular officer using such vehicle identification plate shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

301.3064. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the director of revenue shall issue special motor vehicle license plates to any person who is a resident of this state and who has been duly recognized by the United States Department of State as a consular officer of a foreign government accredited to the United States. For purposes of this section, "consular officer" shall have the meaning as ascribed to such term in section 26.140.

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

7 2. The plates shall not contain any wording identifying consular status, but shall
8 feature a navy blue background color and, upon request of the applicant and approval
9 of the director of revenue, a depiction of the national flag of the sending nation from
10 which the consular officer derives appointment.

11 3. Each plate issued under this section shall display a unique alphanumeric
12 identifier beginning with the letter "C" followed by no more than three digits, consistent
13 with the numbering format used for consular license plates under Missouri law and
14 department of revenue regulation.

15 4. Such plates shall be issued upon application, presentation of appropriate
16 credentials issued or recognized by the United States Department of State, and payment
17 of the established fees as determined by the director of revenue.

18 5. License plates issued under this section shall be made with fully reflective
19 material, shall meet the design and safety standards prescribed by the director of
20 revenue, and shall be clearly distinguishable from other plates issued by the state.

21 6. Any previously issued plates bearing the words "Honorary Consul" shall
22 remain valid until the next regular renewal, at which time such plates shall be reissued
23 in accordance with the provisions of this section.

24 7. The director of revenue may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
25 administer this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
26 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become
27 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and,
28 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any
29 of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to
30 delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held
31 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
32 adopted after August 28, 2026, shall be invalid and void.

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