

B-Engrossed
House Bill 2569

Ordered by the Senate June 4
Including House Amendments dated April 24 and Senate Amendments
dated June 4

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Establishes consular corps registration plates for use on motor vehicles.

Provides that nonprofit group that requests registration plates that recognize fallen public safety officers may require plates to contain informative decal.

Changes surcharge on registration plates for nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education. Allows Department of Transportation to set amount of surcharge within specified range.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to registration plates; creating new provisions; amending ORS 805.205; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2009 Act is added to and made a part of the Oregon Vehicle**
6 **Code.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "honorary consul" means a resident of Oregon**
8 **who has been duly appointed by a foreign country as an honorary consular officer to the**
9 **United States, pursuant to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.**

10 **(2) Upon application by an honorary consul who qualifies under this section, the Depart-**
11 **ment of Transportation shall issue consular corps registration plates for use on the motor**
12 **vehicle of the honorary consul. Registration plates issued under this section may be displayed**
13 **on the vehicle of the honorary consul in lieu of regular registration plates issued under the**
14 **vehicle code.**

15 **(3) The following apply to registration plates issued under this section:**

16 **(a) The plates shall be considered customized plates for purposes of the fee in ORS**
17 **805.250.**

18 **(b) The plates shall be assigned to a specific vehicle.**

19 **(c) The plates may not be transferable from vehicle to vehicle, except as provided by the**
20 **department by rule.**

21 **(d) The plates shall be valid for the term in which the person is acting in the official**
22 **capacity of honorary consul for a foreign consulate. If the term of honorary consul continues**
23 **into a new registration period, the department may provide for validation of the plates for**
24 **the subsequent term by means of a sticker or by any other means the department deter-**
25 **mines convenient.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (e) **The person to whom the plates are issued may retain the plates after the official term**
2 **of honorary consul is over, but the plates may not be valid if displayed on any vehicle when**
3 **the term of honorary consul has ended and the person is no longer appointed as an honorary**
4 **consul.**

5 (4) **To qualify for consular corps registration plates, the person must provide the de-**
6 **partment with proof that the person is appointed by a government as an honorary consul**
7 **and is acting in that capacity.**

8 (5) **The department shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.**

9 **SECTION 3.** ORS 805.205 is amended to read:

10 805.205. (1) The Department of Transportation shall provide for issuance of registration plates
11 described in subsections (3) and (7) of this section for nonprofit groups meeting the qualifications for
12 tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and for institutions of higher
13 education. Plates issued under this section may be issued to owners of motor vehicles registered
14 under the provisions of ORS 803.420 (1). Plates issued under this section may not contain expressions
15 of political opinion or religious belief. Rules adopted under this section shall include, but need not
16 be limited to, rules that:

17 (a) Describe general qualifications to be met by any group in order to be eligible for plates is-
18 sued under this section.

19 (b) Specify circumstances under which the department may cease to issue plates for any partic-
20 ular group.

21 (c) Require each group for which plates are issued to file an annual statement on a form de-
22 signed by the department showing that the group is a nonprofit group or is an institution of higher
23 education and **that the group or institution** otherwise meets the qualifications imposed for eligi-
24 bility for plates issued under this section. The statement shall include names and addresses of cur-
25 rent directors or officers of the group **or institution** or of other persons authorized to speak for the
26 group or institution on matters affecting plates issued under this section.

27 (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, in addition to
28 any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section and upon renewal of
29 registration for a vehicle that has plates issued under this section, the department shall collect a
30 surcharge [*of \$2.50 per plate*] for each year of the registration period. **The surcharge shall be de-**
31 **termined by the department by rule and may not be less than \$2.50 per plate and not more**
32 **than \$16 per plate. In setting the amount of the surcharge, the department shall consult with**
33 **the nonprofit group for which the plates are issued.**

34 (b) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section
35 that recognizes an institution of higher education in this state, and upon renewal of registration for
36 a vehicle that has such plates, the department shall collect a surcharge of \$8 per plate for each year
37 of the registration period.

38 (c) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a Share the Road registra-
39 tion plate, as described in subsection (7) of this section, the department shall collect a surcharge
40 of \$5 per year of registration.

41 (3) Plates issued under this section shall be from the current regular issue of plates except
42 that:

43 (a) If the group requesting the plates is an institution of higher education, the plates shall, upon
44 request, contain words that indicate the plates are issued to recognize the institution or shall con-
45 tain the institution's logo or an image of the institution's mascot; **or**

1 **(b) If the group requesting the plates is a group that recognizes fallen public safety offi-**
2 **cers, the plates shall, upon request, contain a decal that indicates the plates are issued to**
3 **recognize fallen public safety officers.**

4 (4) Except as otherwise required by the design chosen, the plates shall comply with the re-
5 quirements of ORS 803.535. The department shall determine how many sets of plates shall be man-
6 ufactured for each group approved under this section. If the department does not sell or issue
7 renewal for 500 sets of plates for a particular group in any one year, the department shall cease
8 production of those plates.

9 (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this section, each group that is found by
10 the department to be eligible for plates issued under this section may designate an account into
11 which the net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department under subsection (2) of this
12 section are to be deposited. The department shall keep accurate records of the number of plates is-
13 sued for each group that qualifies. After payment of administrative expenses of the department,
14 moneys collected under this section for each group shall be deposited by the department into an
15 account specified by that group. If any group does not specify an account for the moneys collected
16 from the sale of plates issued under this section, the department shall deposit moneys collected for
17 those plates into the Passenger Rail Transportation Account established under ORS 802.100 to be
18 used as other moneys in the account are used. Deposits under this subsection shall be made at least
19 quarterly.

20 (6)(a) Each institution of higher education that requests a plate under this section shall desig-
21 nate an account in the general fund of the institution, and the proceeds in the account shall be used
22 for the purpose of academic enrichment at the institution.

23 (b) Net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department for Share the Road registration
24 plates shall be deposited into two accounts designated by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and
25 Cycle Oregon. The department shall evenly distribute the net proceeds to each account. Deposits
26 under this paragraph shall be made at least quarterly. At any time that the department determines
27 that the accounts designated by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Cycle Oregon cease to
28 exist, the department may deposit the proceeds into the [*Environmental Quality Information*] **Pas-**
29 **senger Rail Transportation** Account established under ORS 802.100.

30 (7) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the department shall design a Share the Road
31 registration plate in consultation with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Cycle Oregon.

32 **SECTION 4. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
33 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect**
34 **on its passage.**

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