

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 647

90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RUSSELL.

Pre-filed December 1, 1999, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

2547L.011

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

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## AN ACT

To repeal both versions of section 301.144 as they appear in RSMo Supp. 1999, relating to motor vehicle license plates, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Both versions of section 301.144 as they appear in RSMo Supp. 1999, are repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 301.144, to read as follows:

301.144. 1. The director of revenue shall establish and issue special personalized license plates containing letters or numbers or combinations of letters and numbers, not to exceed six characters in length. Any person desiring to obtain a special personalized license plate for any motor vehicle other than a commercial motor vehicle licensed for more than twelve thousand pounds shall apply to the director of revenue on a form provided by the director and shall pay a fee of fifteen dollars in addition to the regular registration fees; **provided that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person who has retired from any branch of the United States armed forces or reserves, the United States Coast Guard or reserve, the United States Merchant Marines or reserve, the Missouri National Guard, or any subdivision of any such services shall be exempt from the additional fee required for personalized license plates.** The director of revenue shall issue rules and regulations setting the standards and establishing the procedure for application for and issuance of the special personalized license plates and shall provide a deadline each year for the applications. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of this section shall

**EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of [section 536.024] **chapter 536**, RSMo. No two owners shall be issued identical plates. An owner shall make a new application and pay a new fee each year [he] **such owner** desires to obtain or retain special personalized license plates; however, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 8 of section 301.130 to the contrary, the director shall allow the special personalized license plates to be replaced with new plates every three years without any additional charge, above the fee established in this section, to the renewal applicant. Any person currently in possession of an approved personalized license plate shall have first priority on that particular plate for each of the following years that timely and appropriate application is made.

2. No personalized license plates shall be issued containing any letters, numbers or combination of letters and numbers which are obscene, profane, inflammatory or contrary to public policy. The director may recall any personalized license plates, including those issued prior to August 28, 1992, if [he] **the director** determines that the plates are obscene, profane, inflammatory or contrary to public policy. Where the director recalls such plates [under] **pursuant to** the provisions of this subsection, [he] **the director** shall reissue personalized license plates to the owner of the motor vehicle for which they were issued at no charge, if the new plates proposed by the owner of the motor vehicle meet the standards established [under] **pursuant to** this section. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be interpreted to prohibit the use of license plates, which are no longer valid for registration purposes, as collector's items or for decorative purposes.

3. The director may also establish categories of [specialized personalized] **special** license plates from which license plates may be issued. Any such person, **other than a person exempted from the additional fee pursuant to subsection 1 of this section**, that desires a [special] personalized **special** license plate from any such category shall pay the same additional fee and make the same kind of application as that required by subsection 1 of this section, and the director shall issue such plates in the same manner as other [special] personalized **special** license plates are issued.

4. The director of revenue shall issue to residents of the state of Missouri who hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, upon application and upon payment of the additional fee specified in subsection 1 of this section, **except for a person exempted from the additional fee pursuant to subsection 1 of this section**, [special] personalized **special** license plates bearing the official amateur radio call letters assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the applicant. The application shall be accompanied by an affidavit stating that the applicant has an unrevoked and unexpired amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and the official radio call letters assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the applicant.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, any business [listed in subsection

1 of section 301.256] that repossesses motor vehicles or trailers and sells or otherwise disposes of them shall be issued a placard displaying the word "Repossessed", provided such business pays the fees presently required of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer in subsection 1 of section 301.253. Such placard shall bear a number and shall be in such form as the director of revenue shall determine, and shall be only used for demonstrations when displayed substantially as provided for number plates on the rear of the motor vehicle or trailer.

[301.144. 1. The director of revenue shall establish and issue special personalized license plates containing letters or numbers or combinations of letters and numbers. Such license plates shall be made with fully reflective material with a common color scheme and design, shall be clearly visible at night, and shall be aesthetically attractive, as prescribed by section 301.130. Any person desiring to obtain a special personalized license plate for any motor vehicle other than a commercial motor vehicle licensed for more than twelve thousand pounds shall apply to the director of revenue on a form provided by the director and shall pay a fee of fifteen dollars in addition to the regular registration fees. The director of revenue shall issue rules and regulations setting the standards and establishing the procedure for application for and issuance of the special personalized license plates and shall provide a deadline each year for the applications. No rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to this section shall become effective until approved by the joint committee on administrative rules. No two owners shall be issued identical plates. An owner shall make a new application and pay a new fee each year he desires to obtain or retain special personalized license plates; however, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 8 of section 301.130 to the contrary, the director shall allow the special personalized license plates to be replaced with new plates every three years without any additional charge, above the fee established in this section, to the renewal applicant. Any person currently in possession of an approved personalized license plate shall have first priority on that particular plate for each of the following years that timely and appropriate application is made.

2. No personalized license plates shall be issued containing any letters, numbers or combination of letters and numbers which are obscene, profane, inflammatory or contrary to public policy. The director may recall any personalized license plates, including those issued prior to August 28, 1992, if he determines that the plates are obscene, profane, inflammatory or contrary to public policy. Where the director recalls such plates under the provisions of this subsection, he shall reissue personalized license plates to the owner of the motor vehicle for which they were issued at no charge, if the new plates proposed by the owner of the motor vehicle meet the standards established under this section. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be interpreted to prohibit the use of license plates, which are no longer valid for registration purposes, as collector's items

or for decorative purposes.

3. The director may also establish categories of specialized personalized license plates from which license plates may be issued. Any such person that desires a special personalized license plate from any such category shall pay the same additional fee and make the same kind of application as that required by subsection 1 of this section, and the director shall issue such plates in the same manner as other special personalized license plates are issued.

4. The director of revenue shall issue to residents of the state of Missouri who hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, upon application and upon payment of the additional fee specified in subsection 1 of this section, special personalized license plates bearing the official amateur radio call letters assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the applicant. The application shall be accompanied by an affidavit stating that the applicant has an unrevoked and unexpired amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and the official radio call letters assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the applicant.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, any business listed in subsection 1 of section 301.570 that repossesses motor vehicles or trailers and sells or otherwise disposes of them shall be issued a placard displaying the word "Repossessed", provided such business pays the fees presently required of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer in section 301.560. Such placard shall bear a number and shall be in such form as the director of revenue shall determine, and shall be only used for demonstrations when displayed substantially as provided for number plates on the rear of the motor vehicle or trailer.]

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