

Sixty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2321

Introduced by

Senators Klein, Burckhard, Heckaman

Representatives Boe, Fegley, Vigesaa

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to a registration fee to defray the cost of plates for volunteer emergency  
3 responders and firefighters; to amend and reenact section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders  
5 and firefighters; to provide a statement of legislative intent; and to declare an emergency.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **39-04-10.16. Special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders and**  
10 **volunteer firefighters.**

11 1. As used in this section:

12 a. "Fire department" means a certified city fire department, certified rural fire  
13 department, or certified fire protection district that has filed a certificate of  
14 existence under section 18-04-02.

15 b. "Volunteer emergency responder" means an emergency medical services  
16 provider certified by the state department of health and the individual's squad  
17 leader for a continuous period exceeding two years and who receives an annual  
18 compensation of less than ten thousand dollars.

19 c. "Volunteer firefighter" means an active member in good standing with a North  
20 Dakota fire department who has had a continuous membership for a period  
21 exceeding two years and receives an annual compensation of less than ten  
22 thousand dollars from the fire department.

23 2. Upon application, the director shall issue red personalized plates to volunteer  
24 emergency responders and volunteer firefighters at no initial or annual cost to the

volunteers. ~~Volunteers shall include fire fighters and emergency medical responders.~~  
Qualified applicants are eligible to receive one set of plates. Plates may not be  
displayed on a vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding twenty thousand  
pounds [9071.85 kilograms]. The first three digits of the plate are the last three digits  
of the zip code where the volunteer's department is located. The remaining space may  
contain up to three characters of the volunteer's choosing. This plate serves as an  
entrance pass to all North Dakota state parks. In cooperation with the volunteer  
organizations, the director shall designate qualifications and verification procedures for  
the plates issued under this section.

4. On termination of the registrant's eligibility, the registrant shall return the plates to the  
director, who shall reissue for a fee of not more than five dollars, and upon payment of  
applicable registration fees, another number plate to which that registrant is entitled  
under this chapter.

5. If a registrant fails to return the plates to the director, the director, upon notification of  
the registrant's ineligibility, may revoke the plates and reissue for a fee of not more  
than five dollars, and upon payment of applicable registration fees, another number  
plate for which the registrant is entitled under this chapter.

**SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
and enacted as follows:

**Registration fee to defray cost of plates for volunteer emergency responders and  
volunteer firefighters.**

1. To defray the costs of the expenses incurred under section 39-04-10.16, in addition to  
all other fees required under this chapter for registration of a motor vehicle, the  
department shall collect at the beginning of each annual registration period a fee of  
two dollars from any motor vehicle registered.

2. The department shall deposit any moneys collected under this section into the  
highway tax distribution fund.

**SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE INCREASE.** It is the  
intent of the sixty-sixth legislative assembly that the department of transportation add an  
explanation on the vehicle registration renewal form regarding the two dollar per vehicle  
increase to the vehicle registration fee.

1 | **SECTION 4. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.