

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Senate Amendments**

Fifty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1012**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Governor)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the various divisions  
2 under the supervision of the director of the department of transportation; to provide an  
3 appropriation to the department of corrections and rehabilitation; to provide for a legislative  
4 council study; to create and enact a new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century  
5 Code, relating to commemorative Lewis and Clark number plates; and to amend and reenact  
6 sections 39-04-08.1, 39-04-11, and subsection 4 of section 39-04-19 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code, relating to the display of and fees for number plates and tabs.

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

9 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the  
10 funds as may be necessary, are hereby appropriated out of any moneys from special funds  
11 derived from federal funds and other income, to the various divisions under the supervision of  
12 the director of the department of transportation for the purpose of defraying its expenses, for  
13 the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001, as follows:

14 Administration	\$25,957,360
15 Motor vehicle	9,713,072
16 Driver's license	9,448,859
17 Highways	548,126,965
18 Fleet services	<u>33,751,351</u>
19 Total special funds	\$626,997,607

20 **SECTION 2. LINE ITEM TRANSFERS - EMERGENCY COMMISSION AND BUDGET**

21 **SECTION APPROVAL.** Upon approval of the emergency commission, the director of the  
22 department of transportation may transfer between various line items in section 1 of this Act  
23 appropriation authority of up to ten percent of a given line item to adjust for changing

1 circumstances in meeting established performance measures. Any further transfers must be  
2 approved by the budget section.

3 **SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ROUGHRIDER INDUSTRIES.** There is hereby  
4 appropriated from special funds, derived from income, the sum of \$1,700,000, or so much of  
5 the sum as may be necessary, to the department of corrections and rehabilitation for the  
6 purpose of defraying the expenses associated with the production of a Lewis and Clark  
7 commemorative license plate for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30,  
8 2001.

9 **SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY.** The legislative council shall consider  
10 studying, during the 1999-2000 interim, the fleet services program of the department of  
11 transportation. The study should include a review, the cost-effectiveness of the program, and  
12 the methods used to project and set motor pool rates.

13 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14 created and enacted as follows:

15 **Commemorative Lewis and Clark number plates.** The director shall design and  
16 issue a distinctive number plate commemorating Lewis and Clark. Notwithstanding section  
17 39-04-12, the Lewis and Clark plate does not require the slogan "peace garden state". An  
18 applicant is entitled to receive this plate upon payment of an additional fee of ten dollars per  
19 registration period between December 1, 1999, and November 30, 2000. All additional fees  
20 collected under this section must be deposited in the highway fund.

21 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **39-04-08.1. Assignment of motor vehicle number plates.** Motor vehicle number  
24 plates may not be assigned as a reward for any political activity, in recognition of any political  
25 affiliation or membership in any political party, or on the basis of political favoritism. Except as  
26 provided in sections 39-04-10 and 39-04-10.3, the department shall charge a nonrefundable  
27 fee of ten dollars if an applicant chooses a number plate other than the number plate randomly  
28 assigned. However, an elected state office may be assigned a single or double digit number on  
29 a number plate as requested by that official. The department of transportation ~~shall~~ may adopt  
30 rules governing the assignment of numbers on motor vehicle number plates in accordance with  
31 this section.

1           **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3           **39-04-11. Display of number plates and tabs.** Except as otherwise specifically  
4 provided, ~~no~~ a person may not operate or drive a vehicle on the public highways of this state  
5 unless the vehicle has a distinctive number assigned to it by the department, and two number  
6 plates, bearing the distinctive number conspicuously displayed, horizontally and in an upright  
7 position, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened, except  
8 number plates assigned to a motorcycle, trailer, or housetrailer must be attached to the rear  
9 thereof. When only one number plate is furnished for an apportioned vehicle licensed under  
10 the international registration plan as authorized in section 39-19-04, truck tractor, or semitrailer,  
11 the plate must be attached to the front of the apportioned vehicle or truck tractor and the rear of  
12 the semitrailer. The bottom of each number plate must be at a height of not less than twelve  
13 inches [30.48 centimeters] above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each plate  
14 must be mounted in a manner that does not cover any words, letter, or number on the plate.  
15 As far as is reasonably possible, the plates must at all times be kept free and clear of mud, ice,  
16 or snow so as to be clearly visible and all number plates, markers, or evidence of registration or  
17 licensing except for the current year must be removed from the vehicle. All vehicle license  
18 plates issued by the department continue to be the property of the state of North Dakota for the  
19 period for which the plates are valid. An annual registration tab or sticker for the current  
20 registration year must be displayed on each number plate, in the area designated by the  
21 department for the tab or sticker, in those years for which tabs or stickers are issued in lieu of  
22 number plates.

23           **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 39-04-19 of the North Dakota  
24 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

25           4. Every trailer, semitrailer, and farm trailer required to be registered under this  
26 chapter must be furnished registration plates upon the payment of a twenty dollar  
27 annual fee. Every trailer, semitrailer, or farm trailer not required to be registered  
28 under this chapter must be furnished an identification plate upon the payment of a  
29 fee of five dollars. Upon the request of a person with a trailer or farm trailer to  
30 whom a registration or identification plate is provided under this subsection, the  
31 department shall provide a plate of the same size as provided for a motorcycle.

- 1                    The department shall provide notification of this option to the person before the
- 2                    replacement or issuance of the plate.