

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the  
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1012  
(Appropriations Committee)  
(At the request of the Governor)

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

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

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

Administration	\$25,857,360
Motor vehicle	7,613,072
Driver's license	9,438,859
Highways	548,726,965
Fleet services	<u>33,751,351</u>
Total special funds	\$625,387,607

**SECTION 2. LINE ITEM TRANSFERS - EMERGENCY COMMISSION AND BUDGET SECTION APPROVAL.** Upon approval of the emergency commission, the director of the department of transportation may transfer between various line items in section 1 of this Act appropriation authority of up to ten percent of a given line item to adjust for changing circumstances in meeting established performance measures. Any further transfers must be approved by the budget section.

**SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ROUGHRIDER INDUSTRIES.** There is hereby appropriated from special funds, derived from income, the sum of \$75,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of corrections and rehabilitation for the purpose of defraying the expenses associated with the production of a Lewis and Clark commemorative license plate for the biennium beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2001.

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

**SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS.** During the 1999-2000 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the licensing of used motor vehicle dealers, including fees, dealer plates, and insurance coverage. If the study is conducted, the legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the fifty-seventh legislative assembly.

**SECTION 6.** A new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Commemorative Lewis and Clark number plates.** The director shall design and issue a distinctive number plate commemorating Lewis and Clark. The director shall issue this plate upon application and payment of an additional fee of ten dollars. All additional fees collected under this section must be deposited in the highway fund.

**SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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

**SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

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

**SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 39-04-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. Every trailer, semitrailer, and farm trailer required to be registered under this chapter must be furnished registration plates upon the payment of a twenty dollar annual fee. Every trailer, semitrailer, or farm trailer not required to be registered under this chapter must be furnished an identification plate upon the payment of a fee of five dollars. Upon the request of a person with a trailer or farm trailer to whom a registration or identification plate is provided under this subsection, the department shall provide a plate of the same size as provided for a motorcycle. The department shall provide notification of this option to the person before the replacement or issuance of the plate.

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Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1012.

House Vote:      Yeas    92      Nays    3      Absent    3

Senate Vote:    Yeas    48      Nays    0      Absent    1

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State