

Introduced by

Representative Grueneich

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders.

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

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

6 **39-04-10.16. Special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders,**
7 **volunteer firefighters, and volunteer search and rescue personnel.**

8 1. As used in this section:

- 9 a. "Fire department" means a certified city fire department, certified rural fire
10 department, or certified fire protection district that has filed a certificate of
11 existence under section 18-04-02.
- 12 b. "Volunteer emergency responder" means an emergency medical services
13 provider certified by the department of health and human services and the
14 individual's squad leader for a continuous period exceeding two years and who
15 receives an annual compensation of less than ten thousand dollars.
- 16 c. "Volunteer firefighter" means an active member in good standing with a North
17 Dakota fire department who has had a continuous membership for a period
18 exceeding two years and receives an annual compensation of less than
19 ten thousand dollars from the fire department.
- 20 d. "Volunteer search and rescue personnel" includes water and dive rescue
21 personnel and means an active member:
- 22 (1) Of an organization that at the request of a state entity, political subdivision,
23 or volunteer fire department deploys, coordinates, and uses available
24 resources and personnel in locating, relieving the distress of, preserving the

1 life of, or extracting an individual who is missing, trapped, or lost in remote
2 areas or waters of the state;

3 (2) In good standing and with continuous membership for a period exceeding
4 two years with an organization under paragraph 1; and

5 (3) Who receives an annual compensation of less than ten thousand dollars
6 from an organization under paragraph 1.

7 2. Upon application, the director shall issue red personalized plates to volunteer
8 emergency responders, volunteer firefighters, and volunteer search and rescue
9 personnel at no initial or annual cost to the volunteers. ~~Qualified~~Subject to
10 subsection 5, qualified applicants are eligible to receive one set of plates. Plates may
11 not be displayed on a vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding twenty
12 thousand pounds [9071.85 kilograms]. The first three digits of the plate are the last
13 three digits of the zip code where the volunteer's department or organization is
14 located. The remaining space may contain up to three characters of the volunteer's
15 choosing. This plate serves as an entrance pass to all North Dakota state parks. In
16 cooperation with the volunteer organizations, the director shall designate qualifications
17 and verification procedures for the plates issued under this section.

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

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

26 5. Upon application, the director shall issue one set of plates for each vehicle up to two
27 vehicles to a qualified applicant if the motor vehicle registration for both vehicles lists
28 as owners the applicant and a spouse who is qualified under this section.