

Hello,

My name is Kaelan Akvik and I would like to write to express my approval for HB 1327 relating to the changes for Amateur Radio License Plates.

I am a General Class license holder under the callsign KOAKV. To a radio operator, their callsign is sometimes wider known than their own name. The ability to display this callsign on a license plate is a point of pride that some operators choose to take part in.

This bill looks to alleviate two of the most common frustrations when it comes to callsign plates. Only allowing one plate/vehicle to hold the callsign, and no designated markings on the plate to signify that the text is related to Amateur Radio.

I am the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Coordinator for Richland County, ND. Any ARES member across the state, or nation for that matter, can be deployed after a catastrophic event to assist in communication needs that arise. For the possibility of needing a mobile command post, I purchased a retired ambulance from a local fire department and retrofitted it for use at a communications center. This vehicle proudly displays my callsign on the license plate.

The fact that this vehicle uses that plate means I am not able to have that callsign with a variation without it becoming a vanity plate, incurring additional costs. This bill would allow more than one vehicle to proudly display what operators hold dear.

Other states who have special plates for Amateur Radio License Holders do use the words "Amateur Radio" on them in some fashion, and it greatly increases visibility into this hobby and can create more licensed operators.

Thank you,

Kaelan Akvik

KOAKV