

2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1432

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1432
1/31/2025

Relating to personalized plates.

11:15 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz
Members Absent: Representative Finley-DeVille

Discussion Topics:

- Fallen military members
- Free customization
- Memorial plates

11:15 a.m. Representative M. Ruby introduced the bill and submitted testimony #33238 and #33239.

11:22 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

11:22 a.m. Representative Schatz moved to adopt amendment LC #25.0649.01002.

11:22 a.m. Representative Frelich seconded the motion.

11:24 a.m. Voice vote - motion passed.

11:24 a.m. Representative Schatz moved a Do Pass as Amended.

11:24 a.m. Representative Christianson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Nels Christianson	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	AB
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	AB
Representative Daniel Johnston	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y

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11:25 a.m. Motion passed 12-0-2.

11:25 a.m. Representative Maki will carry the bill.

11:26 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

January 31, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1432

Introduced by

Representatives M. Ruby, Dockter, Marschall, J. Olson, Pyle

Senators Axtman, Castaneda, Paulson

*Jim 1-31-25
1 of 2*

- 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 military sacrifice number plates; and to amend and reenact section
3 39-04-10.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to personalized plates.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-10.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **39-04-10.3. Personalized plates.**

8 At the request of a registrant, the department may provide special license plates marked
9 with not more than seven numerals, letters, or combinations of numerals and letters, upon
10 application for a special license plate and payment of an additional fee of twenty-five dollars per
11 registration period, unless the plate is a gold star license plate, military sacrifice license plate, or
12 a prisoner of war license plate, then there is no additional charge. A personal plate containing a
13 restricted character may not be renewed. The department shall make the special license plates
14 authorized by this section available for motor vehicles registered under section 39-04-10.6,
15 trailers, travel trailers, and motorcycles. The fee for the special license plates issued under this
16 section for vehicles registered under section 39-04-10.6 is a one-time fee of one hundred
17 dollars. The special license plates for motorcycles may contain not more than six numerals,
18 letters, or a combination of not more than six numerals and letters. In the event of sale or
19 transfer of the vehicle, the owner shall remove the special license plates in accordance with

JB 2022

section 39-04-36. Upon payment of the applicable transfer fee, the special license plates may be transferred to a replacement motor vehicle.

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

Military sacrifice plates.

1. The director shall issue distinctive number plates to individuals eligible under this section upon receiving:

a. Payment of all other fees required under this chapter for registration of a motor vehicle; and

b. Verification, as determined by the department, of an individual's eligibility status under this section.

2. An individual is eligible for a military sacrifice plate if the individual is an immediate family member of a individual who died outside a combat zone while serving honorably and has not been not found guilty of willful misconduct as defined in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, part 3, subpart a, section 3.1, subsection n, as a current member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, either active or reserve, the national guard under federal or state control, or the United States coast guard.

3. On request of the director, the department of veterans' affairs shall certify an immediate family member of an individual listed in subsection 2 as eligible to receive military sacrifice plates.

4. Military sacrifice plates must be inscribed with a distinctive emblem and the words "military sacrifice".

4.5. For purposes of this section "immediate family member" means a:

a. Spouse;

b. Parent, step-parent, or other individual who acted in loco parentis;

c. Sibling, whether of the whole or half-blood, or by adoption;

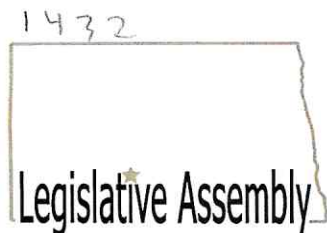
d. Child, including those by adoption, or a step-child; or

e. Grandparent.

5.6. The director may issue military sacrifice plates under this section only to the owner of a passenger motor vehicle, a truck the registered gross vehicle weight rating of which does not exceed twenty thousand pounds [9071.85 kilograms], or a motorcycle.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1432**

Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0649.01002](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1432 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Matthew Ruby

District 40
1400 Golden Valley Lane
Minot, ND 58703-1192
mruby@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Human Services (Chair)
Energy and Natural Resources

31JAN25

Good Morning Chairman Ruby and Transportation committee,

My name is Matt Ruby, and I represent District 40 in Minot. Before you today is HB 1432 which would add a new license plate design for family members of the military who died while on duty but not in a combat zone. If a military member dies while in a combat zone, they would qualify for a Gold Star plate and there are different benefits associated with that program. This military sacrifice plate would cover those who die while deployed in support of the border mission or state active duty or if they are any other type of orders. One aspect I want to point out is that someone who is killed while in the act of a crime wouldn't qualify for this.

When I first got working on this bill and was figuring out how this would work, we intended to narrow who could get one of these plates and provide it for free. During the draft process I was given a few different options of ways we could do this. I know the usual temperament of the legislative body about giving out a free license plate so we decided to offer this license plate at the usual cost you have when you license your vehicle. We also chose to put it in line with the Gold Star Plate and the Purple Heart plate which means someone who gets this plate doesn't pay an additional amount for a custom plate and they can customize the letters without any upcharge.

I do want to offer two amendments. The first is to authorize the Department of Veteran Affairs to receive the applications and review the situation to authorize this plate. This is the same process used for the Gold Star program and the Purple Heart plate. The second amendment I would offer is to remove "or a motorcycle". This is a request from the DOT because motorcycle license plates can't have these customizations now due to their size. I appreciate your consideration on HB 1432 and ask for your support.

25.0649.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative M. Ruby
January 15, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1432

Introduced by

Representatives M. Ruby, Dockter, Marschall, J. Olson, Pyle

Senators Axtman, Castaneda, Paulson

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11 registration period, unless the plate is a gold star license plate, military sacrifice license plate, or
12 a prisoner of war license plate, then there is no additional charge. A personal plate containing a
13 restricted character may not be renewed. The department shall make the special license plates
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16 section for vehicles registered under section 39-04-10.6 is a one-time fee of one hundred
17 dollars. The special license plates for motorcycles may contain not more than six numerals,
18 letters, or a combination of not more than six numerals and letters. In the event of sale or
19 transfer of the vehicle, the owner shall remove the special license plates in accordance with
20 section 39-04-36. Upon payment of the applicable transfer fee, the special license plates may
21 be transferred to a replacement motor vehicle.

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

Military sacrifice plates.

1. The director shall issue distinctive number plates to individuals eligible under this section upon receiving:
 - a. Payment of all other fees required under this chapter for registration of a motor vehicle; and
 - b. Verification, as determined by the department, of an individual's eligibility status under this section.
 2. An individual is eligible for a military sacrifice plate if the individual is an immediate family member of a individual who died outside a combat zone while serving honorably and has not been not found guilty of willful misconduct as defined in title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, part 3, subpart a, section 3.1, subsection n, as a current member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States, either active or reserve, the national guard under federal or state control, or the United States coast guard.
 3. On request of the director, the department of veterans' affairs shall certify an immediate family member of an individual listed in subsection 2 as eligible to receive military sacrifice plates.
 4. Military sacrifice plates must be inscribed with a distinctive emblem and the words "military sacrifice".
- 4.5. For purposes of this section "immediate family member" means a:
- a. Spouse;
 - b. Parent, step-parent, or other individual who acted in loco parentis;
 - c. Sibling, whether of the whole or half-blood, or by adoption;
 - d. Child, including those by adoption, or a step-child; or
 - e. Grandparent.
- 5.6. The director may issue military sacrifice plates under this section only to the owner of a passenger motor vehicle, a truck the registered gross weight of which does not exceed twenty thousand pounds [9071.85 kilograms], or a motorcycle.

2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1432

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1432
3/7/2025

Relating to military sacrifice number plates; and to amend and reenact section 39-04-10.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to personalized plates.

9:30 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Qualifications for obtaining special number plates
- Design of special number plates

9:30 a.m. Representative M. Ruby, District 40, introduced HB 1432, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39530.

9:37 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

9:38 a.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass.

9:38 a.m. Senator Paulson seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	AB

Motion passed 5-0-1.

Senator Klein will carry the bill.

9:39 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED HB 1432 ([25.0649.02000](#))**

Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1432 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Matthew Ruby

District 40
1400 Golden Valley Lane
Minot, ND 58703-1192
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COMMITTEES:

Human Services (Chair)
Energy and Natural Resources

06MAR25

Good morning, Chairman Clemens and Transportation committee,

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When I first got working on this bill and was figuring out how this would work, we intended to narrow who could get one of these plates and provide it for free. During the draft process I was given a few different options of ways we could do this. Knowing the typical feelings of the legislative body about giving out a free license plate, we decided to offer this license plate at the usual cost you have when you license your vehicle. We also chose to put it in line with the Gold Star Plate and the Purple Heart plate which means someone who gets this plate doesn't pay an additional amount for a custom plate and they can customize the letters without any upcharge.

This is a pretty simple bill that offers a small remembrance for family members of those who died while in service to our state and country. I appreciate your consideration on HB 1432 and ask for your support.