



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 770

PRINTERS NO. 3180

PRIME SPONSOR: Adolph

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
Motor License Fund	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"

SUMMARY: Amends the Vehicle Code (Title 75) to create an Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) special organization registration plate; make several changes regarding personal registration plates and makes technical changes regarding speed limits and travel periods for permitted oversized and overweight vehicles. This legislation relating to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Plate and the personalization of special organization plates would take effect in 120 days with the remainder of the legislation taking effect immediately.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Vehicle Code to increase vehicle weight limits for holders of special registration plates, permit personalized organization registration plates, create an ATC special organization registration plate, institute a fee for personalizing special organization registration plates, and make technical changes regarding speed limits and travel periods for permitted oversized and overweight vehicles.

Special Registration Plates: The legislation amends Section 1341 (relating to special registration plates) to increase from 10,000 pounds to 14,000 pounds the registered gross weight of a vehicle eligible to be issued any personalized registration plate or any organization registration plate (whether personalized or not). The legislation adds motorcycles, trailers and motor homes to the types of vehicles eligible to be issued a personalized registration plate and adds motor homes to the types of vehicles eligible to be issued an organization registration plate.

Personal Organization Plates: This legislation establishes a new subsection (1341.1) to allow for the personalization of special organization registration plates. The legislation establishes an additional fee of \$100 for the personalization of organization registration plates, which PennDOT shall collect, in addition to the one-time issuance fee of \$76 for special organization registration plates and the regular annual registration fee. For the personalization of a "person with disability plate" (under Section 1338), "severely disabled veteran plate," "disabled veteran plate," or "Prisoner of war plate," (under Section 1342) the additional fee for personalization shall be \$50, in addition to the other aforementioned fees.

Appalachian Trail Plate: The legislation establishes a new section (1352.1) to create a special ATC organization plate. The new section mandates that the PennDOT shall design the plate in consultation with the ATC. At a minimum, the design shall include the ATC logo, an image of a hiker, and distinctive coloring. The ATC may charge a fee to an individual for the authorization to request the registration plate, and that proceeds received by the ATC must be used exclusively for trail maintenance and improvement.

Speed Limits: This legislation corrects an inconsistency from Act 89 of 2013 to clarify that the maximum speed limit shall be 65 or 70 mph where PennDOT has posted the 65 or 70 mph signs.

Authorized Travel Periods: The legislation also amends Section 4962 (relating to conditions of permits and security for damages) to clarify that permitted overweight or both oversized and overweight vehicles may travel on weekends subject to certain restrictions.

FISCAL IMPACT: According to PennDOT, this legislation would cost \$142,500 in one-time expenses to create the ATC special organization plate. Of that figure, necessary changes to the Vehicle Registration System to add and implement this legislation would cost approximately \$140,000. The necessary changes to forms, fact sheets, information modules, and the website would cost approximately \$2,000. Design costs for the plate would be approximately \$500. Each ATC plate will cost approximately \$4 to produce.

PennDOT indicates that any net new costs could be absorbed within PennDOT's base budget. It is possible that revenue to the Motor License Fund from the sale of the new ATC plate could offset the one-time costs. In order to cover the full cost of production, sales of ATC plates will have to exceed 1,980 at a price of \$76 per plate (total revenue = \$150,480).

Additional revenue can also be expected from the \$100 plate personalization fee plus new plate revenues from expanding the types of vehicles eligible for special plates and the increased weight limits. There is no way to estimate how many special organization registration plates will be purchased and personalized by customers or the amount of new vehicles that will have plates personalized with the increased weight limits. In Fiscal Year 2011-12, there were 303 different organizational registration plates available for purchase with total sales of \$25,420, which equates to 1,271 plates sold. Of the special fund plates, PennDOT indicates that the "DARE", "Zoological", and "Honoring Our Veterans" plate could be personalized. Revenues from the DARE, Zoological, and Honoring Our Veterans plates totaled \$53,820 in Fiscal Year 2012-13, which equates to 2,691 plates sold. Assuming that 20% of these special fund and special organizational plates were personalized, the new revenue from the additional fee would total \$79,240 for the Motor License Fund.

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DATE: March 19, 2014

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.