

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 26

PRINTER NO. 4146

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund
Local Government Funds

DATE INTRODUCED

March 28, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative White

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 26 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for antique, classic and collectible plates; distracted driving awareness registration plates; special registration plates for veterans and recipients of Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal and the Presidential Service Badge; an exemption of persons, entities and vehicles from fees; and a fee for local use.

§ 1340 (b) (relating to antique, classic and collectible plates) is amended to establish a historic military vehicle registration plate. The owner of a historic military vehicle may be issued a historic military vehicle registration plate by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (department) after providing information as the department may require and payment of a \$75 processing fee. A "historic military vehicle" is defined as an antique or classic vehicle, including a trailer, that was manufactured for use in any country's military forces and is maintained to represent the vehicle's military design and markings accurately. Use of historic military vehicle registration plates shall be limited to participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, occasional transportation and similar uses.

§ 1341 (c) (relating to special registration plates) is amended to allow for the issuance of organization registration plates for motorcycles and to allow special groups to request a registration plate with an abbreviation of the group name. Current law only permits the issuance of these organization registration plates for passenger cars or trucks, with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds, trailer or motor home.

A new § 1358.2 (relating to distracted driving awareness plate) is added to authorize the department to design and issue a Distracted Driving Awareness registration plate, upon application of any person, accompanied by a fee of \$40, which shall be in addition to the registration fee. The department shall issue the registration plate for a motorcycle and a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds or a motor home. The fee shall be used exclusively to advance public education and outreach on the dangers posed by distracted driving at the department's discretion. This section shall expire December 31, 2025.

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§ 1364 (relating to special plates for veterans) is amended by adding a subsection (c) (relating to honoring our women veterans) to allow for the issuance of an "honoring our women veterans" special registration plate designating the vehicle as belonging to a person who is honoring women veterans of the armed forces of the United States. The special registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds. The department shall issue such registration plates upon application of any person, accompanied by a fee of \$35, which shall be in addition to the registration fee. The Veterans' Trust Fund shall receive \$15 of the fee paid by the applicant for the plate. The portion of the fee transferred to the Veterans' Trust Fund under this new subsection shall be used for programs and resources that assist women veterans.

A new § 1369.3 (relating to special plates for recipients of Soldier's Medal) is added to establish special registration plates for recipients of the Soldier's Medal. The department shall issue a special registration plate designating the vehicle licensed as belonging to a person who is a recipient of the Soldier's Medal, upon application, accompanied by a fee of \$20. This fee shall be in addition to the registration fee. The special registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds.

A new § 1369.4 (relating to special plates for recipients of Presidential Service Badge) is added to establish special registration plates for recipients of the Presidential Service Badge. The department shall issue a special registration plate designating the vehicle licensed as belonging to a person who is a recipient of the Presidential Service Badge, upon application, accompanied by a fee of \$20. This fee shall be in addition to the registration fee. The special registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds.

§ 1901 (relating to exemption of persons, entities and vehicles from fees) is amended to provide that the department shall exempt a volunteer EMS company, volunteer ambulance service and nonprofit emergency medical services agency from vehicle registration fees.

§ 1935 (relating to fee for local use) is amended by making a technical change to language that provides for discretionary countywide ordinances imposing a \$5 fee on nonexempt vehicle registrations. This amendment clarifies that the \$5 fee imposed by some counties, by ordinance, is an annual fee.

This act shall take effect in 120 days.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The department estimates that it will cost \$25,000 to design the special vehicle registration plates and make necessary computer system changes. Additionally, there would be a negative revenue impact to the Motor License Fund of approximately \$84,000 to exempt certain volunteer EMS companies, volunteer ambulance services and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, based upon a one-time title fee and annual \$10 processing fees.

These costs are minimal and capable of being accommodated within the agency's current workload and budget.

§ 1935 (relating to fee for local use) provides that a county may, in its discretion, by ordinance, impose a fee of \$5 for each nonexempt vehicle registered to an address located in the county. With the optional 2-year vehicle registration provided for in Act 89 of 2013, counties that have imposed this \$5 fee have a 1-year loss of revenue for each vehicle owner that opted for the 2-year registration. This initial loss of revenue varies from county to county, although, data provided by Montgomery County indicates a 30% loss of revenue for 2018, which amounts to approximately \$1 million.