

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1857

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE ACT OF 2005 CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION AND ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR AND IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Basic Change :

Representatives Shepherd, Copenhaver

The bill creates a new revenue fund, the Fallen Law Enforcement Officer's Beneficiary Fund, to be used by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. The bill adds new definitions to the code to define "Certified law enforcement officer" and "Law enforcement agency".

The bill adds new sections to the Arkansas Code to create three (3) new special license plates as follows:

1. A new plate for certified law enforcement officers;
2. A Support Law Enforcement license plate;
3. An Arkansas Sheriffs Association plate.

Plate Number 1:

The Department is required to seek the advice of the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training with regard to design. Fees for initial issuance of plate Number 1 are the regular registration fee, a ten-dollar handling and administrative fee to be deposited to the State Central Services Fund, and a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fund raising fee. Fees for renewal of plate number 1 are the regular registration fee and the twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fund raising fee. The fund raiser fees are to be remitted monthly with seventy-five percent (75%) deposited to the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Cash Fund, and twenty-five percent (25%) to the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers' Beneficiary Fund.

To be eligible for plate Number 1, the law enforcement officer must provide proof the he or she is a certified law enforcement officer or retired from active service as a certified law enforcement officer, as defined in the bill. Such proof is not required for renewal of the plate. The Department is required to offer a banner or tape to state "Retired" to be attached to the plate, if the applicant is retired as a certified law enforcement officer.

Plate Number 2:

The Department is required to seek the advice of the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training with regard to design. The department is authorized to establish fees, the number of applications that must be submitted, or combination thereof for the initial order of the plates. Fees are the regular registration fee, a ten-dollar administrative fee to be deposited to the State Central Services Fund, and a fund raising fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The fund raising fee is to be deposited monthly in the same manner as described for plate Number 1.

Plate Number 3:

The Arkansas Sheriff's Association is to design plate number 3 upon approval of the Department. The department is authorized to establish fees, the number of applications that must be submitted, or combination thereof for the initial order of the plates.

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Fees are the regular registration fee, a ten-dollar (\$10.00) administrative fee to be deposited to the State Central Services Fund, and a fund raising fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). All fees are annual. The fund raiser fees are to be remitted monthly with seventy-five percent (75%) deposited to the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association and twenty-five percent (25%) to the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers' Beneficiary Fund.

Revenue Impact :

Unknown increases in the State Central Services Fund, the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers' Beneficiary Fund, the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Cash Fund, and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association, depending on how many vehicle owners choose to register the vehicles with the new plates.

Taxpayer Impact :

Certified Law Enforcement Officers as defined in the bill can register their vehicles to support the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers' Beneficiary Fund, the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Cash Fund, and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association

Resources Required :

A supply of each new plate must be acquired and maintained.

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided.

Procedural Changes :

Program the motor vehicle system for the new plates. Revise Motor Vehicle Procedures Manual and distribute to Revenue Offices.

Other Comments :

None

Legal Analysis :

HB1857 creates two of the three plates that are created in this bill in Title 27, Chapter 24, Subchapter 14. Under Arkansas law, there is a special application process that must be followed to create a new special interest license plate in Subchapter 24. . See generally, §§ 27-24-1404 and 1405. If the applicants for the "Support Law Enforcement" group and the "Arkansas Sheriffs' Association" qualify under § 27-24-1404, they can apply for a license plate under that procedure and one will be issued. If they do not qualify, then the license plates should be created under a different subchapter of Title 27, Chapter 24, rather than in Subchapter 14.

Page 4, line 6, the word "to" should be deleted.