

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: SB354

Bill Subtitle: CONCERNING FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES; TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON THE ISSUANCE OF FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATES; AND TO REDIRECT THE REMITTANCE OF THE ADDITIONAL MONTHLY FEE.

Basic Change :

Senator B. Sample
Representative Hickerson

Under current law a firefighter, retired fighter, and professional firefighter may be issued special license plates for no more than two (2) vehicles. The bill removes the two (2) vehicle limit.

Under current law, the five-dollar (\$5.00) fund raiser collected for the plates is remitted to the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Board. Under the bill the fund raiser fee for firefighters and retired fighters would be remitted to the Arkansas State Firefighters Association. The fund raiser fee collected for professional firefighters would be remitted to the Arkansas Professional Firefighters Association.

Revenue Impact :

As of the January of license plate report, there are 7,102 active firefighter and retired firefighter plates, and 1,665 active professional firefighter plates. Redirection of the five-dollar (\$5.00) fund raiser fee would cause a decrease of \$43,835 to the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Board. The fund raiser fees directed to the Arkansas State Firefighters Association would cause an increase of \$35,510 to that association. The fund raiser fees directed to the Arkansas Professional Firefighters Board would cause an increase of \$8,325 to that board. Additional increases would occur for the Association and the Board depending on the number of additional plates issued due to the removal of the two (2) vehicle limit.

Taxpayer Impact :

Firefighters, retired fighters, and professional firefighters would no longer be limited on the number special firefighter plates issued for motor vehicles they own.

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Resources Required :

No additional resources required.

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided.

Procedural Changes :

Revise Motor Vehicle Procedures Manual and distribute new instructions to Revenue Offices.

Other Comments :

None.

Legal Analysis :

SB354 would allow firefighters and professional firefighters to apply for and annually renew special license plates for any number of vehicles. The current two-vehicle limitation for both firefighters and professional firefighters would be removed.

The total fee for the initial application for the special license plates would remain the same, but the additional \$5 fee that was previously remitted monthly to the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Board, would be changed to the Arkansas State Firefighters Association and the Arkansas Professional Firefighters Association, respectively.

As currently drafted, SB354 contains a drafting error. Page 2, line 2, of SB354 provides that "board" be stricken from Ark. Code Ann § 27-24-1303(c)(3). The stricken language should state, "Arkansas Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Board".

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