

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT  
with Senate Amendments**

Fifty-sixth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1344**

Introduced by

Representatives Boucher, Schmidt

Senators Kroeplin, Thompson

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 commemorative Lewis and Clark number plates; and to amend and  
3 reenact section 39-04-11 and subsection 4 of section 39-04-19 of the North Dakota Century  
4 Code, relating to the display of number plates and tabs.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **Commemorative Lewis and Clark number plates.** The director shall design and  
9 issue a distinctive number plate commemorating Lewis and Clark. The director shall issue this  
10 plate upon application and payment of an additional fee of ten dollars per registration period.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **39-04-11. Display of number plates and tabs.** Except as otherwise specifically  
14 provided, ~~no~~ a person may not operate or drive a vehicle on the public highways of this state  
15 unless the vehicle has a distinctive number assigned to it by the department, and two number  
16 plates, bearing the distinctive number conspicuously displayed, horizontally and in an upright  
17 position, one on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle, each securely fastened, except  
18 number plates assigned to a motorcycle, trailer, or housetrailer must be attached to the rear  
19 thereof. When only one number plate is furnished for an apportioned vehicle licensed under  
20 the international registration plan as authorized in section 39-19-04, truck tractor, or semitrailer,  
21 the plate must be attached to the front of the apportioned vehicle or truck tractor and the rear of  
22 the semitrailer. The bottom of each number plate must be at a height of not less than twelve  
23 inches [30.48 centimeters] above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands. Each plate  
24 must be mounted in a manner that does not cover any words, letter, or number on the plate.

1 As far as is reasonably possible, the plates must at all times be kept free and clear of mud, ice,  
2 or snow so as to be clearly visible and all number plates, markers, or evidence of registration or  
3 licensing except for the current year must be removed from the vehicle. All vehicle license  
4 plates issued by the department continue to be the property of the state of North Dakota for the  
5 period for which the plates are valid. An annual registration tab or sticker for the current  
6 registration year must be displayed on each number plate, in the area designated by the  
7 department for the tab or sticker, in those years for which tabs or stickers are issued in lieu of  
8 number plates.

9 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 39-04-19 of the North Dakota  
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 4. Every trailer, semitrailer, and farm trailer required to be registered under this  
12 chapter must be furnished registration plates upon the payment of a twenty dollar  
13 annual fee. Every trailer, semitrailer, or farm trailer not required to be registered  
14 under this chapter must be furnished an identification plate upon the payment of a  
15 fee of five dollars. Upon the request of a person with a trailer or farm trailer to  
16 whom a registration or identification plate is provided under this subsection, the  
17 department shall provide a plate of the same size as provided for a motorcycle.  
18 The department shall provide notification of this option to the person before the  
19 replacement or issuance of the plate.