

**SENATE BILL NO. 2321**

Introduced by

Senators Klein, Burckhard, Heckaman

Representatives Boe, Fegley, Vigesaa

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 a registration fee to defray the cost of plates for volunteer emergency  
3 responders and firefighters; to amend and reenact section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders  
5 and firefighters; and to declare an emergency.

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

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-04-10.16 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **39-04-10.16. Special vehicle license plates for volunteer emergency responders and**  
10 **volunteer firefighters.**

11 1. As used in this section:

12 a. "Fire department" means a certified city fire department, certified rural fire  
13 department, or certified fire protection district that has filed a certificate of  
14 existence under section 18-04-02.

15 b. "Volunteer emergency responder" means an emergency medical services  
16 provider certified by the state department of health and the individual's squad  
17 leader for a continuous period exceeding two years and who receives an annual  
18 compensation of less than ten thousand dollars.

19 c. "Volunteer firefighter" means an active member in good standing with a North  
20 Dakota fire department who has had a continuous membership for a period  
21 exceeding two years and receives an annual compensation of less than ten  
22 thousand dollars from the fire department.

23 2. Upon application, the director shall issue red personalized plates to volunteer  
24 emergency responders and volunteer firefighters at no initial or annual cost to the

1 volunteers. ~~Volunteers shall include fire fighters and emergency medical responders.~~  
2 Qualified applicants are eligible to receive one set of plates. Plates may not be  
3 displayed on a vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding twenty thousand  
4 pounds [9071.85 kilograms]. The first three digits of the plate are the last three digits  
5 of the zip code where the volunteer's department is located. The remaining space may  
6 contain up to three characters of the volunteer's choosing. This plate serves as an  
7 entrance pass to all North Dakota state parks. In cooperation with the volunteer  
8 organizations, the director shall designate qualifications and verification procedures for  
9 the plates issued under this section.

10 4. On termination of the registrant's eligibility, the registrant shall return the plates to the  
11 director, who shall reissue for a fee of not more than five dollars, and upon payment of  
12 applicable registration fees, another number plate to which that registrant is entitled  
13 under this chapter.

14 5. If a registrant fails to return the plates to the director, the director, upon notification of  
15 the registrant's ineligibility, may revoke the plates and reissue for a fee of not more  
16 than five dollars, and upon payment of applicable registration fees, another number  
17 plate for which the registrant is entitled under this chapter.

18 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 39-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
19 and enacted as follows:

20 **Registration fee to defray cost of plates for volunteer emergency responders and**  
21 **volunteer firefighters.**

22 1. To defray the costs of the expenses incurred under section 39-04-10.16, in addition to  
23 all other fees required under this chapter for registration of a motor vehicle, the  
24 department shall collect at the beginning of each annual registration period a fee of  
25 ~~one dollar~~two dollars from any motor vehicle registered.

26 2. The department shall deposit any moneys collected under this section into the  
27 highway tax distribution fund.

28 **SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.