



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2003 Assembly Bill 614**

**Assembly Amendment 1**

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**Under current law**, any group or organization may apply to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for designation as an authorized special group. If the application is approved, members of the authorized special group may obtain special distinguishing registration plates for certain vehicles, including automobiles and motor homes, that are owned or leased by special group members. A fee, in addition to the regular registration fee for the particular kind of vehicle, is assessed for the issuance or reissuance of most special plates.

Before October 2, 1998, authorized special groups whose members may obtain special distinguishing registration plates were specifically enumerated in state law. Current law provides that specific enumeration in state law of authorized special groups is limited to those special groups enumerated before October 2, 1998.

**Assembly Bill 614** creates exceptions to the general prohibition against specifically enumerating in state law special groups whose members may apply for special group registration plates. The bill establishes the following authorized groups that are military in nature:

1. Veterans of the war in Kosovo, Afghanistan, or Iraq; and
2. Recipients of the Air Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

In addition to the regular vehicle registration fee, special group members are required to pay a \$15 fee for issuance or reissuance of the special plates.

**Assembly Amendment 1** increases funding to DOT (Department of Motor Vehicles specifically) by \$31,000 for fiscal year 2004-05 for the special distinguishing registration plates created in the bill. This \$31,000 is a one-time increase in fiscal year 2004-05 and may not be included in DOT's request to the Department of Administration for the 2005-07 Biennial Budget Bill.

**Legislative History**

On December 16, 2003, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended for adoption Assembly Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0.

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