



2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 394

August 26, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives LOTHIAN, BARCA, SUDER, KERKMAN, TOWNSEND, GUNDERSON, MURTHA, BROOKS, NERISON, KESTELL, HIXSON, STRACHOTA, DAVIS, RIPP, HINTZ, KAUFERT, ZIGMUNT, MEYER, M. WILLIAMS and POPE-ROBERTS, cosponsored by Senators KEDZIE, WIRCH, GROTHMAN, DARLING, SCHULTZ, COWLES, TAYLOR, CARPENTER, LEHMAN and KAPANKE. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 341.135 and 341.14 (6r) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** the
2 color and design of special distinguishing registration plates for fire fighters
3 and emergency medical technicians.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, members of authorized special groups may obtain special distinguishing registration plates for automobiles and certain other vehicles that are owned or leased by members of these groups, which include fire fighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Subject to certain limitations, the Department of Transportation (DOT) specifies the color and design for special plates.

Current law also requires DOT to establish new designs for most vehicle registration plates, including most special plates, at intervals determined by DOT and to issue the new plates on a rolling basis as vehicle registrations are renewed by the vehicle owners.

This bill requires special plates for fire fighters and EMTs to be the same color and design that was specified by DOT for these plates immediately prior to January 1, 2007. The bill also exempts these special plates from the redesign cycle.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

ASSEMBLY BILL 394**SECTION 1**

1 **SECTION 1.** 341.135 of the statutes, as affected by 2009 Wisconsin Act 28, is
2 amended to read:

3 **341.135 Rebasing registration plates.** At intervals determined by the
4 department, the department shall establish new designs of registration plates to be
5 issued under ss. 341.14 (1), (1a), (1m), (1q), (2), (2m), (6m), and (6r), 341.25 (1) (a),
6 (c), (h), and (j) and (2) (a), (b), and (c), and 341.26 (2) and (3) (a) 1. and (am). Any
7 design for registration plates issued for automobiles and for vehicles registered on
8 the basis of gross weight shall comply with the applicable design requirements of ss.
9 341.12 (3), 341.13, and 341.14 (6r) (c). The designs for registration plates specified
10 in this section shall be as similar in appearance as practicable during each design
11 interval. Except as provided in ss. 341.13 (2r) and 341.14 (1), each registration plate
12 issued under s. 341.14 (1), (1a), (1m), (1q), (2), (2m), (6m), or (6r), 341.25 (1) (a), (c),
13 (h), or (j) or (2) (a), (b), or (c), or 341.26 (2) or (3) (a) 1. or (am) during each design
14 interval shall be of the design established under this section. The department may
15 not redesign registration plates for the special groups under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 53., 54.,
16 or 55. until July 1, 2010. Notwithstanding s. 341.13 (3), as the department
17 establishes new designs for registration plates under this section, the department
18 shall, at the time determined appropriate by the department, issue registration
19 plates of the new design to replace registration plates previously issued. This section
20 does not apply to special group plates under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m., 33., and 48.

21 **SECTION 2.** 341.14 (6r) (c) of the statutes, as affected by 2009 Wisconsin Act 28,
22 section 2817, is amended to read:

23 341.14 (6r) (c) Special group plates shall display the word “Wisconsin”, the
24 name of the applicable authorized special group, a symbol representing the special
25 group, not exceeding one position, and identifying letters or numbers or both, not

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1 exceeding 6 positions and not less than one position. The Except as otherwise
2 provided in this paragraph, the department shall specify the design for special group
3 plates, but the department shall consult the president of the University of Wisconsin
4 System before specifying the word or symbol used to identify the special groups
5 under par. (f) 35. to 47., the secretary of natural resources before specifying the word
6 or symbol used to identify the special groups under par. (f) 50. and 59., the chief
7 executive officer of the professional football team and an authorized representative
8 of the league of professional football teams described in s. 229.823 to which that team
9 belongs before specifying the design for the applicable special group plate under par.
10 (f) 55., the department of veterans affairs before specifying the design for the special
11 group plates under par. (f) 49d., 49h., and 49s., and the department of tourism and
12 chief executive officer of the organization specified in par. (f) 55m. before specifying
13 the design and word or symbol used to identify the special group name for special
14 group plates under par. (f) 55m. Special group plates under par. (f) 50. shall be as
15 similar as possible to regular registration plates in color and design. The department
16 shall make available 2 designs for the special group plates under par. (f) 60. The
17 department may not specify any design for the special group plates under par. (f) 60.
18 unless the design is approved by the executive vice president of the Milwaukee
19 Brewers Baseball Club LP. Notwithstanding par. (e), special group plates under par.
20 (f) 33. and 48. shall be the same color and design that was specified by the department
21 for such plates immediately prior to January 1, 2007.

SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.

23 (1) Notwithstanding section 341.16 (1) and (2) of the statutes, a person issued,
24 after December 31, 2006, but prior to the effective date of this subsection, special
25 plates under section 341.14 (6r) (f) 33. or 48. of the statutes may obtain replacement

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1 plates under section 341.16 of the statutes, regardless of whether the person's
2 current registration plates have been lost or stolen or have become illegible. A person
3 who obtains replacement plates under this subsection is otherwise subject to all
4 provisions of section 341.16 of the statutes, including any applicable fee.

5 **SECTION 4. Initial applicability.**

6 (1) This act first applies to registration plates issued by the department of
7 transportation on the effective date of this subsection.

8 **SECTION 5. Effective date.**

9 (1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 3rd month beginning after
10 publication.

11 (END)