



State of Wisconsin

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STEPHEN R. MILLER
CHIEF

October 9, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Kedzie

From: Aaron Gary, Legislative Attorney, (608) 261-6926

Subject: Technical Memorandum to **2007 SB 267** (LRB-1824/1) by **DOT**

We received the attached technical memorandum relating to your bill. This copy is for your information and your file.

If you wish to discuss this memorandum or the necessity of revising your bill or preparing an amendment, please contact me.

October 5, 2007

To: Legislative Reference Bureau

From: Department of Transportation

Re: Technical note, 2007 SB 267 (2007 LRB-1824/1)

The bill (page 2, line 11) references S.341.145(1)(f), veterans' motorcycle personalized plates. That provision allows a personalized plate number of up to 5 positions.

Five positions are available for the veterans' motorcycle personalized plate, because the author, DOT, and veterans' groups agreed, before the provision was drafted, that the plate would be designed so that the logo would not impinge on any portion of the space needed for the plate number. The parties all agreed that there would be a single plate representing all branches of the service, in order that such a plate design could be feasible. The plate displays a waving US flag in the upper left corner, so that it does not impinge on any portion of the space needed for the plate number.

We expect that the objective of 2007 SB 267 is to allow a motorcycle plate for each of the three special groups – firefighters, rescue squad members, and emergency medical technicians. We believe the expectation is that the motorcycle plate would look similar to the full-size special group plate: the full-size plate utilizes one space of the plate number to display a logo for the special group. In that case, it is not possible to allow 5 positions for a personalized plate number. Only 4 positions could be allowed. The space of one position is needed for the logo representing the special group.

Furthermore, since 2007 SB 267 would set a precedent for allowing motorcycle plates for all special groups, the possibility of an agreement such as was made for the veterans' motorcycle plate is not a realistic possibility. While DMV estimates that there would be very few firefighter/rescue squad/emergency medical technician motorcycle plates, if all other special groups were to also get a motorcycle plate, then there would be so many special motorcycle plates that 4 digits would no longer allow unduplicated plate numbers.

Therefore, to forestall this possibility, a separate provision should be drafted for 2007 SB 267, similar to S.341.145 (1)(f) but allowing a personalized plate number of 1-4 positions.

Thank you.