



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 224
[2009 Senate Bill 307]

**Lions Clubs of Wisconsin: Special
Registration Plates**

CURRENT LAW

Current law provides that 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 charged for the issuance or reissuance of most special plates.

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

2009 WISCONSIN ACT 224

2009 Wisconsin Act 224:

- Establishes an authorized special group specifically enumerated in state law for persons interested in obtaining special plates supporting the Lions Clubs of Wisconsin.
- Specifies that 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 and a \$25 annual fee that provides funds to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc.
- Requires the special plates to display a logo or image of the lion associated with the Lions Clubs International.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- Specifies that the DOT may not issue any Lions special group plates until DOT has received information sufficient for DOT to determine that ***any license or other approval*** required for use of any logo, trademark, or service mark, trade name or other commercial symbol to be used on or in association with these plates has been established. The DOT may not issue any plates unless this approval provides for all of the following:
 - The approval is irrevocable with respect to all plates issued for vehicles after the plates are issued for these vehicles.
 - If this approval is withdrawn, DOT: (1) may continue to renew the registration of vehicles previously issued these plates, without replacing these plates, but DOT must discontinue charging the \$25 fee with respect to these renewals (i.e., these plates will no longer be fundraising plates); and (2) must discontinue issuing these Lions plates unless additional approval is obtained by DOT.
- Requires the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc., to submit financial statements to the Attorney General.
- Increases the appropriation dollar amount to DOT by \$23,700 for purposes of these new Lions plates.

Effective date: 2009 Wisconsin Act 224 takes effect on December 1, 2010.

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May 10, 2010

DLS:jal