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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2005 Wisconsin Act 109**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 202]

**Military License Plates**

**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 could 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.

**2005 Wisconsin Act 109** creates exceptions to the general prohibition against specifically enumerating in state law special groups whose members may apply for special group registration plates. The Act establishes the following authorized groups that are military in nature: veterans of the Iraq War, the Afghanistan War, and Noble Eagles; students and alumni of the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; and members of the Civil Air Patrol. 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.

**Act 109** provides that the DOT consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) before specifying the design of the Iraq War, the Afghanistan War, and the Noble Eagle plates. Further, prior to consultation with the DOT, the DVA shall solicit input from the state's veterans organizations regarding the design of the Iraq War, the Afghanistan War, and the Noble Eagle plates.

**Act 109** provides that all moneys received for the issuance or reissuance of a plate for specified special groups in excess of the lesser of \$37,800 (amended from \$27,600) or the initial production costs

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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/>.

of plates for the special group for persons interested in supporting veterans and the special groups established by the Act (see description above) must be deposited in the Veterans Trust Fund.

***Effective Date:*** The effective date of 2005 Wisconsin Act 109 is June 1, 2006.

***Prepared by:*** Philip G. Cardis, Staff Attorney

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