



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 405

**Assembly Amendments
1 and 2**

Memo published: August 16, 2005

Contact: Philip G. Cardis, Staff Attorney (267-0683)

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.

This bill 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 authorized special groups that are military in nature for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle. 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

Assembly Amendment 1 modifies the bill in the following manner:

- Requires DOT to consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs before specifying the design for the special group plates created under the bill.
- Modifies the name of the “Operation Iraqi Freedom” plate to “Iraq War.”
- Modifies the name of the “Operation Enduring Freedom” plate to “Afghanistan War.”

- Modifies the name of the “Operation Noble Eagle Veterans” plate to “Noble Eagle Veterans.”
- Prior to consultation with the DOT as required under the amendment (for plate design), the Department of Veterans Affairs shall solicit input from the state’s veterans organizations regarding the design for the special group plates created under the bill.
- Provides a one-time funding increase of \$18,200 to the Division of Motor Vehicles to cover the costs associated with the plates created under the bill.

Assembly Amendment 2

This amendment responds to recent changes made in the 2005 Budget Bill (2005 Wisconsin Act 25). Act 25 specifies that the current \$15 issuance and reissuance fees for the new special group plate for persons interested in supporting veterans and all existing military group plates shall be deposited in the Veterans Trust Fund, rather than the Transportation Fund. In accordance with that, Assembly Amendment 2 specifies that these new military plates created in the bill are included within that change regarding the fee.

Legislative History

On August 11, 2005, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended adoption of Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 by a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0.

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