



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2007 Senate Bill 20

Assembly Amendments 2 and 3

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2007 SENATE BILL 20

Under current law, the Department of Transportation (DOT) issues special distinguishing vehicle registration plates to members of certain “authorized special groups,” including fire fighters. If a person issued special fire fighter plates is no longer a fire fighter, the person must dispose of the special fire fighter plates. The bill would allow the surviving spouse of a fire fighter that has fire fighter plates and dies in the line of duty to retain the special plates or have the plates reissued. DOT must also allow the surviving spouse to change from personalized plates to standard plates or from standard plates to personalized plates.

Under current law, a number of groups who are military in nature also have special distinguishing registration plates. If special military plates have been issued to a person, and that person dies, DOT may allow the surviving spouse to keep the special military plates or have them reissued, and may allow the plates to be changed from personalized plates to standard plates or from standard plates to personalized plates. The bill requires DOT to allow the surviving spouse to keep the special military plates, and also directs DOT to allow the surviving spouse to change the plates from personalized plates to standard plates or from standard plates to personalized plates.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 would allow a surviving spouse of a fire fighter who dies in the line of duty to receive fire fighter plates even if the decedent did not have fire fighter plates at the time of his or her death. The amendment also would provide that an application to have military or fire fighter plates reissued to a surviving spouse must be submitted within two years of disposal of the plates for the surviving spouse to be assured to receive the same plate number or personalized message on reissuance.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 3

Assembly Amendment 3 would allow a fire fighter, rescue squad member, or emergency medical technician who has special group plates in one of these three categories, and who suffers an injury in the course of his or her job duties that prevents him or her from subsequently performing his or her job duties, to retain the special plates. If such a person was required to surrender his or her special plates between September 1, 2007 and the effective date of the bill, or had his or her plates expire during that time period, the Amendment would require the DOT to reissue the plate at no additional fee upon application by that person.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended introduction of Assembly Amendment 3 by a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0, and adoption of Assembly Amendment 3 by a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0, adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 by a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0, and concurrence in Senate Bill 20 as amended by a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0.

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