

1977 Assembly Bill 495

Date published: October 31, 1977

## CHAPTER 129, Laws of 1977

AN ACT to repeal and recreate 341.145 (title), (1), (2) (intro.) and (c), (3) and (4), 342.15 (4) and 342.34 (1) (c); and to create 341.145 (5) to (7) and 341.31 (1) (b) 4 of the statutes, relating to personalized license plates and increasing an appropriation.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 341.145 (title), (1), (2) (intro.) and (c), (3) and (4) of the statutes, as affected by chapter 29, laws of 1977, are repealed and recreated to read:

**341.145 (title) Personalized license plates.** (1) (a) In this section, "personalized license plate" means a registration plate for an owned automobile, station wagon or a

motor truck which has a gross weight of not more than 6,000 pounds, which displays a registration number composed of letters or numbers, or both, requested by the applicant. Personalized license plates shall be of the same color and design as regular license plates and shall consist of numbers or letters, or any combination thereof, not exceeding 6 positions and not less than 2 positions.

(b) In lieu of the procedure under s. 341.13 (2), the department may issue distinguishing tags or decals for personalized license plates for a vehicle registered on the basis of gross weight.

(2) (intro.) The department shall issue personalized license plates only upon request and if:

(c) The requested combination of numbers or letters has not already been issued.

(3) In addition to the regular application fee provided under s. 341.25 (1) (a) or (b) or (2), the applicant for a personalized license plate shall pay a fee of \$10 for the issuance of the plate and \$10 in each succeeding year to maintain the plate. The fee for reissuance of a personalized plate shall be \$10.

(4) Each personalized license plate issued shall be reserved for the recipient in succeeding registration periods and shall not be duplicated for issuance to any other person during such registration periods. If the individual does not specifically request reissuance of the personalized license plate by the end of the month in which the plate expires, in a succeeding plate issuance year, the department may issue the personalized license plate to another applicant. License plate numbers issued as special numbers prior to the effective date of this act (1977) will be reserved for issuance as personalized license plates in the same manner as prescribed for personalized plates in this section.

SECTION 2. 341.145 (5), (6) and (7) of the statutes are created to read:

341.145 (5) If an individual in possession of a personalized license plate does not maintain the personalized license plate under sub. (3) during a year which is not a plate issuance year, the individual shall:

(a) Dispose of the personalized plate in a manner prescribed by the department;

(b) In addition to the regular application fee, pay a \$4 fee for the issuance of replacement plates; and

(c) Return the certificate of title to the department for correction.

(6) Any license plate issued sequentially to an applicant for original or renewal registration shall not be available for issuance as a personalized license plate until the succeeding plate issue year.

(7) The department may refuse to issue any combination of letters or numbers, or both, which carry connotations offensive to good taste or decency. All decisions of the department with respect to personalized plate applications shall be final and not subject to judicial review under ch. 227.

SECTION 3. 341.31 (1) (b) 4 of the statutes is created to read:

341.31 (1) (b) 4. The vehicle is a motor truck which has been transferred to the applicant and for which personalized license plates had been issued to the previous owner; or

SECTION 4. 342.15 (4) of the statutes, as affected by chapter 29, laws of 1977, is repealed and recreated to read:

342.15 (4) (a) If the vehicle being transferred is an automobile or station wagon registered pursuant to the monthly series system or a motor truck for which personalized license plates have been issued, the owner shall remove the registration plates and retain and preserve them for use on any other vehicle of the same type which may subsequently be registered in his or her name.

(b) If the vehicle being transferred is a vehicle registered under s. 341.26 at a special fee and the new owner will not be entitled to register the vehicle at such fee, the transferor shall remove and destroy the plates.

(c) In all other cases the transferor shall permit the plates to remain attached to the vehicle being transferred, except that if the vehicle has been junked the transferor shall remove and destroy the plates.

SECTION 5. 342.34 (1) (c) of the statutes, as affected by chapter 29, laws of 1977, is repealed and recreated to read:

342.34 (1) (c) If the motor vehicle is an automobile or station wagon registered pursuant to the monthly series system or a motor truck for which personalized license plates have been issued, the owner shall remove the registration plates and retain and preserve them for use on any other vehicle of the same type which may subsequently be registered in his or her name. If the motor vehicle is not an automobile registered pursuant to the monthly series system, he or she shall remove and destroy the plates.

SECTION 5m. **Appropriation increase.** The appropriation under section 20.395 (6) (up) of the statutes, as affected by the laws of 1977, is increased by \$24,000 in 1977-78 and by \$21,600 in 1978-79 to authorize and fund 2 data processing positions in the department of transportation for the purpose of implementing this act.

SECTION 6. **Effective date.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1979, except that SECTION 5m of this act shall take effect on the day following publication.

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