



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5700/1  
ZDW:amn

## 2023 SENATE BILL 972

January 26, 2024 - Introduced by Senator KNODL, cosponsored by Representatives MELOTIK, ARMSTRONG, MOSES and MURPHY. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Local Government.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 341.14 (6r) (e) and 341.14 (6r) (fm) 7.; and **to create** 341.14  
2 (6r) (b) 23., 341.14 (6r) (cm) and 341.14 (6r) (f) 70. of the statutes; **relating to:**  
3 special registration plates with white lettering on a black background.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, members of certain designated special groups may obtain from the Department of Transportation special registration plates for certain vehicles 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.

This bill establishes a special group for persons wishing to have registration plates with white lettering on a black background. The bill requires that plates issued to members of the special group have a black background and white lettering displaying the word "Wisconsin" and the registration number assigned to the vehicle.

The bill provides that, in addition to the required fees, special group members are required to make a voluntary payment of \$25 to be issued the special plates. Under the bill, DOT retains \$23,700, or the actual initial costs of production, whichever is less, from the voluntary payment moneys for the initial costs of production of the special plates. The remainder of the voluntary payment amounts are deposited in the transportation fund.

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For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 341.14 (6r) (b) 23. of the statutes is created to read:

2           341.14 **(6r)** (b) 23. In addition to the fee under subd. 2., a voluntary payment  
3 of \$25 shall be collected in connection with the issuance or renewal of a plate issued  
4 on an annual basis for the special group specified under par. (f) 70. In addition to the  
5 fee under subd. 2., a voluntary payment of \$50 shall be collected in connection with  
6 the issuance or renewal of a plate issued on a biennial basis for the special group  
7 specified under par. (f) 70. if the plate is issued or renewed during the first year of  
8 the biennial registration period or \$25 for the issuance or renewal if the plate is  
9 issued or renewed during the 2nd year of the biennial registration period. No plate  
10 may be issued for the special group specified under par. (f) 70. unless the voluntary  
11 payment under this subdivision is collected. All moneys received under this  
12 subdivision, in excess of \$23,700 or the actual initial costs of production for the  
13 special group plates under par. (f) 70., whichever is less, shall be deposited in the  
14 transportation fund.

15           **SECTION 2.** 341.14 (6r) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

16           341.14 **(6r)** (cm) Notwithstanding par. (c), special group plates issued under  
17 par. (f) 70. shall have a black background and white lettering displaying the word  
18 “Wisconsin” and identifying letters or numbers or both, not exceeding 7 positions and  
19 not less than one position.

20           **SECTION 3.** 341.14 (6r) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           341.14 (6r) (e) The department shall specify one combination of colors for  
2 special group plates for groups or organizations which are not military in nature and  
3 not special group plates under par. (f) 35. to 47., 50., ~~and~~ 59., and 70., for each  
4 professional football team under par. (f) 55., for each professional baseball team  
5 under par. (f) 60., and for each professional basketball team under par. (f) 65. The  
6 department shall specify one combination of colors for special group plates under par.  
7 (f) 35. to 47. Subject to par. (c), the department shall specify the word or words  
8 comprising the special group name and the symbol to be displayed upon special group  
9 plates for a group or organization which is not military in nature after consultation  
10 with the chief executive officer in this state of the group or organization. The  
11 department shall require that the word or words and symbol for a university  
12 specified under par. (f) 35. to 47. be a registration decal or tag and affixed to the  
13 special group plate and be of the colors for a university specified under par. (f) 35. to  
14 47. that the president of the University of Wisconsin System specifies. The  
15 department shall consult the chief trademark officer of Harley-Davidson Michigan,  
16 LLC before specifying the colors for the special group plate under par. (f) 61r.

17           **SECTION 4.** 341.14 (6r) (f) 70. of the statutes is created to read:

18           341.14 (6r) (f) 70. Persons interested in obtaining registration plates with  
19 white lettering on a black background.

20           **SECTION 5.** 341.14 (6r) (fm) 7. of the statutes is amended to read:

21           341.14 (6r) (fm) 7. After October 1, 1998, additional authorized special groups  
22 may only be special groups designated by the department under this paragraph. The  
23 authorized special groups enumerated in par. (f) shall be limited solely to those  
24 special groups specified under par. (f) on October 1, 1998. This subdivision does not  
25 apply to the special groups specified under par. (f) 3m., 6m., 9g., 9m., 12g., 12m.,

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**SECTION 5**

1 15m., 15n., 15o., 15p., 15q., 19m., 33m., 48m., 49d., 49h., 49s., 54., 55., 55m., 56., 57.,

2 58., 59., 60., 61., 61m., 61r., 62., 63., 64., 65., 65m., 66., 67., 68., and 69., and 70.

3 (END)