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*Senate Bill No. 291*  
INTRODUCED BY *Michael Devine* *Ngallan Goodson*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 53-106, R.C.M. 1947, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES BY PROVIDING THAT MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES SHALL BE ISSUED FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS AND THAT THOSE ISSUED IN 1976 SHALL BE A GRAPHIC DESIGN COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 53-106, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to read as follows:

"53-106. Number plates. (1) Every motor vehicle which shall be driven upon the streets or highways of this state shall display both front and rear a number plate, bearing the distinctive number assigned such vehicle. Such number plate shall be in eight series: one series for owners of motor cars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the motorcycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle type which shall bear the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER," one for franchised dealers in new motor cars (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motor cars

(including trucks and trailers) which shall bear the distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER," one for dealers in used motor cars only (including used trucks and trailers) which shall bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter "U" and the word "DEALER," and one for dealers in trailers and/or semitrailers (new or used) which shall bear the distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word "DEALER," and all such markings for the aforementioned kinds of dealers' plates shall be placed on the number plates assigned thereto in such position thereon as the registrar may designate. ~~All number plates for motor vehicles shall be issued every other year, provided that number plates will next be issued in the year 1973 and in alternate years thereafter, shall bear a distinctive marking, and shall be furnished by the state in alternate years the registrar shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate registration numbers which shall be affixed to the license plates in use. All number plates for motor vehicles shall be issued for a minimum period of four years, provided that number plates shall next be issued in the year 1976 and as often thereafter as is consistent with the provisions of this section, shall bear a distinctive marking, and shall be furnished by the state. In years when number plates are not issued, the registrar shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate registration numbers which shall be~~

*SB291*

1 affixed to the license plates in use.

2 (2) In the case of motor cars and trucks, number plates  
3 shall be of metal six inches wide and twelve inches in  
4 length, the number plates issued in the year 1976 to be of a  
5 graphic design commemorating the bicentennial of the  
6 founding of the United States of America, and the word  
7 "Montana" with the year placed across the bottom of the  
8 plate. For number plates issued after 1976, the outline of  
9 the state of Montana shall be used as a distinctive border  
10 on such license plates, and the word "Montana" with the year  
11 shall be placed across the bottom of the plate. Such  
12 registration plate shall be treated with a reflectorized  
13 background material according to specifications prescribed  
14 by the registrar. An additional fee of fifty (50) cents per  
15 year for each registration of a vehicle shall be added to  
16 the registration fee. Revenue from this fee shall be  
17 forwarded by the respective county treasurers to the state  
18 treasurer for deposit in the motor vehicle recording account  
19 of the earmarked revenue fund. Disbursements from the motor  
20 vehicle recording account shall be made by warrant drawn by  
21 the registrar. The distinctive registration numbers shall  
22 begin with a number one (1) or with a letter-number  
23 combination such as "A 1" or "AA 1," or any other similar  
24 combination of letters and numbers and be numbered  
25 consecutively for each series of plates. The distinctive

1 registration number or letter-number combination assigned to  
2 the vehicle shall appear on the plate preceded by the number  
3 of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same  
4 horizontal base line, and the county number shall be  
5 separated from the distinctive registration number by a ~~dash~~  
6 or-a-dot separation mark unless a letter-number combination  
7 is used. The dimensions of such numerals and letters shall  
8 be determined by the registrar of motor vehicles, provided  
9 that all county and registration numbers shall be of equal  
10 height.

11 (3) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in  
12 addition to the markings herein provided, number plates  
13 shall have thereon the following distinctive markings:

14 For vehicles owned by the state the registrar of motor  
15 vehicles may designate the prefix number for the various  
16 state departments, and all numbered plates issued to state  
17 departments shall bear the words "State Owned" and no year  
18 number will be indicated thereon as these numbered plates  
19 will be of a permanent nature, and will be replaced by the  
20 registrar of motor vehicles at such time when the physical  
21 condition of numbered plates require same. For vehicles  
22 owned by the counties, municipalities and school districts  
23 and used and operated by officials and employees thereof in  
24 line of duty as such, and for vehicles on loan from the  
25 United States government or the state of Montana, to, or

1 owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by  
 2 officials and employees thereof in the line of duty as such,  
 3 there shall be placed on the number plates assigned thereto,  
 4 in such position thereon as the registrar may designate, the  
 5 letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT." Distinctive registration  
 6 numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the  
 7 counties in the state and those of the municipalities and  
 8 school districts situated within each of said counties shall  
 9 begin with number 1 and be numbered consecutively.

10 (4) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of  
 11 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and  
 12 trailers, there shall appear the letter "T" or the word  
 13 "TRUCK" for plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR"  
 14 or the word "TRAILER" for plates assigned to trailers, and  
 15 housetrailleurs, and the letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" for  
 16 plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle type.

17 Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck, trailer  
 18 or vehicle of the motorcycle type may be transferred only to  
 19 a replacement passenger car, truck, trailer or motorcycle  
 20 type vehicle.

21 (5) For the purpose of this act, the several counties  
 22 of the state shall be assigned numbers as follows: Silver  
 23 Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and  
 24 Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River,  
 25 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer,

1 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18;  
 2 Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22;  
 3 Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26;  
 4 Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;  
 5 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;  
 6 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;  
 7 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;  
 8 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;  
 9 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,  
 10 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,  
 11 55; Lincoln, 56; any new counties shall be assigned numbers  
 12 by the registrar of motor vehicles as they may be formed,  
 13 beginning with the number 57."

-End-

98271

## STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 167-75

## FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 5, 19 75, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for Senate Bill 291 pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly. Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

Senate Bill 291 provides that motor vehicle number plates shall be issued for a minimum period of four years and that those issued in 1976 shall be a graphic change commemorating the bicentennial celebration of the founding of the United States.

## ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Cost estimates are based upon budget information received from the license plate manufacturing division of the state prison.
2. Approximately 120,000 sets of license plates per year will be issued after the year of original issue.
3. Additional equipment amounting to \$91,650 is needed in 1976 to purchase the graphic bicentennial plate. \$42,600 of this equipment would have to be purchased to replace worn equipment by 1979 under any alternative.
4. Costs include \$80,000 per year tag production when appropriate.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

The following four-year period estimates are being provided to portray various license plate alternatives:

Calendar Year	Special '76 Bicenten. 4-Yr. Issue Thereafter	Reg. Plate '76 Issue 4-Yr. Issue Thereafter	Reg. Plate '77 Issue 4-Yr. Issue Thereafter	Reg. Plate '77 Issue 2-Yr. Issue Thereafter
1976	\$1,019,245	\$ 860,849	\$ 136,017	\$ 136,017
1977	136,017	136,017	860,849	835,357
1978	232,400	224,000	141,618	141,618
1979	247,760	281,000	266,600	961,493
4-Year Total	<u>\$1,635,422</u>	<u>\$1,501,866</u>	<u>\$1,405,084</u>	<u>\$2,074,485</u>

## CONCLUSION:

Enactment of Senate Bill 291 would result in four-year reductions in license plate expenditures of \$439,063. (\$2,074,485 (column 4) versus \$1,635,422 (column 1) )

*Michael Bellings*  
BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 2/19/75

Approved by Committee  
on Highways & Transportation

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INTRODUCED BY MATHERS, THIESSEN, DEVINE,  
HAZELBAKER, GOODOVER

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the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the  
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(including trucks and trailers) or new and used motor cars  
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distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER," one for dealers  
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 11 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,  
 12 55; Lincoln, 56; any new counties shall be assigned numbers  
 13 by the registrar of motor vehicles as they may be formed,  
 14 beginning with the number 57."

-End-

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 13 registration plate shall be treated with a reflectorized  
 14 background material according to specifications prescribed  
 15 by the registrar. An additional fee of fifty (50) cents per  
 16 year for each registration of a vehicle shall be added to  
 17 the registration fee. Revenue from this fee shall be  
 18 forwarded by the respective county treasurers to the state  
 19 treasurer for deposit in the motor vehicle recording account  
 20 of the earmarked revenue fund. Disbursements from the motor  
 21 vehicle recording account shall be made by warrant drawn by  
 22 the registrar. The distinctive registration numbers shall  
 23 begin with a number one (1) or with a letter-number  
 24 combination such as "A 1" or "AA 1," or any other similar  
 25 combination of letters and numbers and be numbered

1 consecutively for each series of plates. The distinctive  
 2 registration number or letter-number combination assigned to  
 3 the vehicle shall appear on the plate preceded by the number  
 4 of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same  
 5 horizontal base line, and the county number shall be  
 6 separated from the distinctive registration number by a ~~dash~~  
 7 ~~or--a-dot~~ separation mark unless a letter-number combination  
 8 is used. The dimensions of such numerals and letters shall  
 9 be determined by the registrar of motor vehicles, provided  
 10 that all county and registration numbers shall be of equal  
 11 height.

12 (3) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in  
 13 addition to the markings herein provided, number plates  
 14 shall have thereon the following distinctive markings:

15 For vehicles owned by the state the registrar of motor  
 16 vehicles may designate the prefix number for the various  
 17 state departments, and all numbered plates issued to state  
 18 departments shall bear the words "State Owned" and no year  
 19 number will be indicated thereon as these numbered plates  
 20 will be of a permanent nature, and will be replaced by the  
 21 registrar of motor vehicles at such time when the physical  
 22 condition of numbered plates requires same. For vehicles  
 23 owned by the counties, municipalities and school districts  
 24 and used and operated by officials and employees thereof in  
 25 line of duty as such, and for vehicles on loan from the

1 United States government or the state of Montana, to, or  
 2 owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by  
 3 officials and employees thereof in the line of duty as such,  
 4 there shall be placed on the number plates assigned thereto,  
 5 in such position thereon as the registrar may designate, the  
 6 letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT." Distinctive registration  
 7 numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the  
 8 counties in the state and those of the municipalities and  
 9 school districts situated within each of said counties shall  
 10 begin with number 1 and be numbered consecutively.

11 (4) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of  
 12 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and  
 13 trailers, there shall appear the letter "T" or the word  
 14 "TRUCK" for plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR"  
 15 or the word "TRAILER" for plates assigned to trailers, and  
 16 housetrailer, and the letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" for  
 17 plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle type.

18 Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck, trailer  
 19 or vehicle of the motorcycle type may be transferred only to  
 20 a replacement passenger car, truck, trailer or motorcycle  
 21 type vehicle.

22 (5) For the purpose of this act, the several counties  
 23 of the state shall be assigned numbers as follows: Silver  
 24 Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and  
 25 Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River,

1 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer,  
 2 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18;  
 3 Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big Horn, 22;  
 4 Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26;  
 5 Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;  
 6 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;  
 7 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;  
 8 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;  
 9 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;  
 10 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,  
 11 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,  
 12 55; Lincoln, 56; any new counties shall be assigned numbers  
 13 by the registrar of motor vehicles as they may be formed,  
 14 beginning with the number 57."

-End-