

SENATE BILL NO. 419

INTRODUCED BY CONOVER, HALLIGAN, LANE, YELLOWTAIL, MAZUREK,  
HIRSCH, MANNING, STIMATZ, QUILICI, CONNELLY

IN THE SENATE

February 15, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Highways and Transportation.
February 15, 1985	Fiscal Note requested.
February 20, 1985	Fiscal Note returned.
February 22, 1985	Committee recommend bill do pass. Report adopted.
February 23, 1985	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 26, 1985	Second reading, do pass.  Considered correctly engrossed.
February 27, 1985	Third reading, passed. Ayes, 50; Noes, 0.  Transmitted to House.

IN THE HOUSE

March 7, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Highways and Transportation.
March 30, 1985	Committee recommend bill be concurrred in as amended. Report adopted.
April 3, 1985	Second reading, concurrred in.
April 5, 1985	Third reading, concurrred in.  Returned to Senate with amendments.

IN THE SENATE

April 13, 1985	On motion, rules suspended to accept. Motion adopted.
April 15, 1985	Received from House.
April 17, 1985	Second reading, amendments concurred in.
April 18, 1985	Third reading, amendments concurred in. Ayes, 49; Noes, 0.  Sent to enrolling.  Reported correctly enrolled.

1 *Senate* BILL NO. *419*  
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Concess* ~~LANE~~ *Yellowtail*  
 3 *Richard Manning*  
 4 *Stacey* *Quilley*  
 5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
 6 ISSUANCE OF REGULAR LICENSE PLATES CARRYING A DESIGN TO  
 7 RECOGNIZE THE CENTENNIAL OF MONTANA'S ADMISSION TO  
 8 STATEHOOD; PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL  
 9 LICENSE PLATES MAY BE ISSUED FOR AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THE  
 10 CHARGE FOR REGULAR LICENSE PLATES, WITH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH  
 11 SALES TO BE USED FOR MONTANA'S STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL  
 12 COMMEMORATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE  
 13 AND ISSUANCE OF SUCH PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-332, MCA;  
 14 AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."  
 15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
 16 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Regular issue centennial  
 17 license plates -- design of regular or commemorative plates.  
 18 (1) The division of motor vehicles, in issuing license  
 19 plates under the provisions of 61-3-321, shall provide for  
 20 the issuance of regular license plates carrying a design  
 21 recognizing the centennial of Montana's 1889 admission to  
 22 statehood.  
 23 (2) The design of the license plates issued under the  
 24 provisions of [section 2] or this section must be developed  
 25 in consultation with the Montana statehood centennial office

1 established by \_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_ [LC 1078].  
 2 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Commemorative centennial  
 3 license plates. (1) Notwithstanding the 4-year period  
 4 provided for in 61-3-332(2), the division may issue  
 5 commemorative centennial license plates for a different  
 6 period if requested by the Montana statehood centennial  
 7 office, at prices to be agreed upon by the division and the  
 8 office as provided in [section 3].  
 9 (2) Commemorative license plates may be:  
 10 (a) collectors' license plates, intended to be  
 11 collectors' items only, distinctively marked or colored.  
 12 Such plates may be designated as not valid for the purpose  
 13 of licensing motor vehicles within the state; or  
 14 (b) special or limited duration license plates valid  
 15 for licensing motor vehicles in the state and carrying the  
 16 same general centennial design as regularly issued license  
 17 plates provided for in [section 1], except that they may  
 18 differ from such regular license plates by:  
 19 (i) color;  
 20 (ii) use of a distinctive series of registration  
 21 numbers or special prefixes or suffixes for the  
 22 registration numbers; and  
 23 (iii) by other details not distracting from legibility  
 24 or recognition of the license plate.  
 25 (3) (a) The proceeds from the sale of commemorative



1 license plates, after payment of the agreed price to the  
2 division, must be used for centennial activities of the  
3 office as provided in \_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_ [LC 1078].

4 (b) The issuance of commemorative license plates must  
5 be made at no direct cost to the state.

6 (4) Commemorative license plates that are valid for  
7 licensing a motor vehicle must carry the assigned county  
8 number, as established in 61-3-332(8), either within the  
9 registration numbers or by means of an affixed nonremovable  
10 sticker bearing the appropriate county designation and used  
11 in accordance with instructions by the division.

12 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Administration. (1) The  
13 division of motor vehicles may by rule establish application  
14 procedures for the issuance of license plates authorized by  
15 [sections 1 through 3]. The rules may provide:

16 (a) for the issuance of regular license plates with a  
17 centennial design to persons wishing to purchase such plates  
18 to replace present plates;

19 (b) for the application for and issuance of  
20 commemorative centennial license plates valid for licensing  
21 motor vehicles, as authorized by [section 2];

22 (c) whether commemorative centennial license plates,  
23 if issued under [section 2], may be issued as personalized  
24 plates under the provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, part 4;  
25 and

1 (d) other procedures necessary for the proper  
2 administration of [sections 1 through 3].

3 (2) (a) The Montana statehood centennial office may  
4 request classes and variations of commemorative license  
5 plates, and each type or variation may be issued for a  
6 different price.

7 (b) For the issuance of commemorative license plates,  
8 the office shall contract with and provide for payment to  
9 the division for the production of such license plates. The  
10 contract must establish prices to be paid by the ultimate  
11 purchaser for the issuance of commemorative centennial  
12 license plates.

13 Section 4. Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

14 "61-3-332. Number plates. (1) Every motor vehicle  
15 which shall be driven upon the streets or highways of this  
16 state shall display both front and rear a number plate,  
17 bearing the distinctive number assigned such vehicle. Such  
18 number plate shall be in eight series: one series for owners  
19 of motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the  
20 motorcycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for  
21 dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle type which shall bear  
22 the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the  
23 word "DEALER", one for franchised dealers in new motorcars  
24 (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motorcars  
25 (including trucks and trailers) which shall bear the

1 distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one for dealers  
 2 in used motorcars only (including used trucks and trailers)  
 3 which shall bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter  
 4 "U" and the word "DEALER", and one for dealers in trailers  
 5 and/or semitrailers (new or used) which shall bear the  
 6 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word  
 7 "DEALER". All such markings for the aforementioned kinds of  
 8 dealers' plates shall be placed on the number plates  
 9 assigned thereto in such position thereon as the division  
 10 may designate.

11 (2) All number plates for motor vehicles shall be  
 12 issued for a minimum period of 4 years, shall bear a  
 13 distinctive marking, and shall be furnished by the state.  
 14 In years when number plates are not issued, the division  
 15 shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate  
 16 registration numbers which shall be affixed to the license  
 17 plates in use.

18 (3) In the case of motorcars and trucks, number plates  
 19 shall be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. For  
 20 ~~number-plates--issued-after-1976, the~~ The outline of the  
 21 state of Montana shall be used as a distinctive border on  
 22 such license plates, and the word "Montana" with the year  
 23 shall be placed across ~~the--bottom--of~~ the plate. Such  
 24 registration plate shall be treated with a reflectorized  
 25 background material according to specifications prescribed

1 by the division.

2 (4) The distinctive registration numbers shall begin  
 3 with a number one or with a letter-number combination such  
 4 as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of  
 5 letters and numbers ~~and-be-numbered-consecutively-for-each~~  
 6 ~~series-of-plates~~. The distinctive registration number or  
 7 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle shall  
 8 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and  
 9 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal  
 10 baseline, and the county number shall be separated from the  
 11 distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless  
 12 a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such  
 13 numerals and letters shall be determined by the division,  
 14 provided that all county and registration numbers shall be  
 15 of equal height.

16 (5) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles that are  
 17 also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as provided  
 18 in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532, in addition to the  
 19 markings herein provided, number plates shall have thereon  
 20 the following distinctive markings:

21 (a) For vehicles owned by the state the division may  
 22 designate the prefix number for the various state  
 23 departments, and all numbered plates issued to state  
 24 departments shall bear the words "State Owned" and no year  
 25 number will be indicated thereon as these numbered plates

1 will be of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the  
2 division at such time when the physical condition of  
3 numbered plates requires same.

4 (b) For vehicles owned by the counties,  
5 municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the  
6 laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school  
7 districts and used and operated by officials and employees  
8 thereof in line of duty as such, and for vehicles on loan  
9 from the United States government or the state of Montana,  
10 to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated  
11 by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty as  
12 such, there shall be placed on the number plates assigned  
13 thereto, in such position thereon as the division may  
14 designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive  
15 registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles  
16 of each of the counties in the state and those of the  
17 municipalities and school districts situated within each of  
18 said counties and those of the irrigation districts which  
19 obtain plates within each county shall begin with number one  
20 and be numbered consecutively.

21 (6) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of  
22 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks  
23 that are also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as  
24 provided in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532 and tax exempt  
25 trailers, there shall appear the letter "T" or the word

1 "TRUCK" for plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR"  
2 or the word "TRAILER" for plates assigned to trailers and  
3 housetrailer. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" shall  
4 appear for plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle  
5 type.

6 (7) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck,  
7 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle type may be  
8 transferred only to a replacement passenger car, truck,  
9 trailer, or motorcycle type vehicle. No registration or  
10 license fee may be assessed upon a transfer of a number  
11 plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

12 (8) For the purpose of this chapter, the several  
13 counties of the state shall be assigned numbers as follows:  
14 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4;  
15 Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;  
16 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12;  
17 Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt,  
18 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big  
19 Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera,  
20 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;  
21 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;  
22 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;  
23 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;  
24 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;  
25 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,

LC 0527/01

1 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,  
2 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties shall be assigned numbers  
3 by the division as they may be formed, beginning with the  
4 number 57."

5 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Termination date. This act  
6 terminates July 1, 1991.

-End-

## STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. FNN 441-85

## FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 15, 19 85, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for S.B. 419 pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA). 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:

"An act providing for the issuance of regular license plates carrying a design to recognize the centennial of Montana's admission to statehood; providing that special commemorative centennial license plates may be issued for an amount in excess of the charge for regular license plates, with the proceeds of such sales to be used for Montana's statehood centennial commemoration; providing for the administration of the sale and issuance of such plates, amending Section 61-3-332, MCA; and providing a termination date."

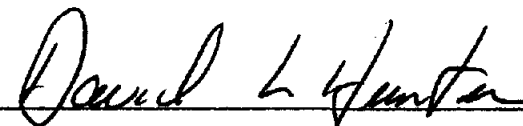
ASSUMPTIONS:

1. No additional tool cost to make centennial plates. Additional cost is for inventory only to make the plates.
2. All costs figured for 12" plates.
3. Assume the purchase of centennial plates is optional.
4. Assume that the cost to license holders will cover at least the cost of production.

FISCAL IMPACT:

<u>Expenditures:</u>	<u>FY 86</u>	<u>FY 87</u>	<u>Total Biennium</u>
	\$ -0-	\$ 25,234	\$ 25,234
<u>Revenue:</u>			
All State Special Revenue*		\$ 25,234	\$ 25,234

\*If the charge for the plates exceed the operational costs, the remaining balance will be used for the centennial commemoration.



BUDGET DIRECTOR  
Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: Feb 20, 1985



Request No. FNN 441-85  
Form BD-15 page 2

AFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUE OR EXPENDITURES:

N/A

LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

In FY 88, \$25,234 will be required for materials necessary to make the remainder of the plates.

TECHNICAL OR MECHANICAL DEFECTS OR CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING LEGISLATION:

The Department of Institutions will require spending authority to accomplish the mandates of the bill. The Department of Justice also needs authority to transfer proceeds to the Department of Institutions for the production costs.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

*Senate* BILL NO. *419*

INTRODUCED BY *Conroy* ~~LANE~~ *Ullenthal*  
*Richard E. Montgomery*  
*Richard E. Montgomery*  
*Richard E. Montgomery*

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
ISSUANCE OF REGULAR LICENSE PLATES CARRYING A DESIGN TO  
RECOGNIZE THE CENTENNIAL OF MONTANA'S ADMISSION TO  
STATEHOOD; PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL  
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CHARGE FOR REGULAR LICENSE PLATES, WITH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH  
SALES TO BE USED FOR MONTANA'S STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL  
COMMEMORATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE  
AND ISSUANCE OF SUCH PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-332, MCA;  
AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

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

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statehood.

(2) The design of the license plates issued under the  
provisions of [section 2] or this section must be developed  
in consultation with the Montana statehood centennial office

established by \_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_ [LC 1078].  
NEW SECTION. Section 2. Commemorative centennial  
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commemorative centennial license plates for a different  
period if requested by the Montana statehood centennial  
office, at prices to be agreed upon by the division and the  
office as provided in [section 3].

- (2) Commemorative license plates may be:
  - (a) collectors' license plates, intended to be collectors' items only, distinctively marked or colored. Such plates may be designated as not valid for the purpose of licensing motor vehicles within the state; or
  - (b) special or limited duration license plates valid for licensing motor vehicles in the state and carrying the same general centennial design as regularly issued license plates provided for in [section 1], except that they may differ from such regular license plates by:
    - (i) color;
    - (ii) use of a distinctive series of registration numbers or special prefixes or suffixes for the registration numbers; and
    - (iii) by other details not distracting from legibility or recognition of the license plate.
- (3) (a) The proceeds from the sale of commemorative



1 license plates, after payment of the agreed price to the  
2 division, must be used for centennial activities of the  
3 office as provided in \_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_ [LC 1078].

4 (b) The issuance of commemorative license plates must  
5 be made at no direct cost to the state.

6 (4) Commemorative license plates that are valid for  
7 licensing a motor vehicle must carry the assigned county  
8 number, as established in 61-3-332(8), either within the  
9 registration numbers or by means of an affixed nonremovable  
10 sticker bearing the appropriate county designation and used  
11 in accordance with instructions by the division.

12 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Administration. (1) The  
13 division of motor vehicles may by rule establish application  
14 procedures for the issuance of license plates authorized by  
15 [sections 1 through 3]. The rules may provide:

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17 centennial design to persons wishing to purchase such plates  
18 to replace present plates;

19 (b) for the application for and issuance of  
20 commemorative centennial license plates valid for licensing  
21 motor vehicles, as authorized by [section 2];

22 (c) whether commemorative centennial license plates,  
23 if issued under [section 2], may be issued as personalized  
24 plates under the provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, part 4;  
25 and

1 (d) other procedures necessary for the proper  
2 administration of [sections 1 through 3].

3 (2) (a) The Montana statehood centennial office may  
4 request classes and variations of commemorative license  
5 plates, and each type or variation may be issued for a  
6 different price.

7 (b) For the issuance of commemorative license plates,  
8 the office shall contract with and provide for payment to  
9 the division for the production of such license plates. The  
10 contract must establish prices to be paid by the ultimate  
11 purchaser for the issuance of commemorative centennial  
12 license plates.

13 Section 4. Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

14 "61-3-332. Number plates. (1) Every motor vehicle  
15 which shall be driven upon the streets or highways of this  
16 state shall display both front and rear a number plate,  
17 bearing the distinctive number assigned such vehicle. Such  
18 number plate shall be in eight series: one series for owners  
19 of motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the  
20 motorcycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for  
21 dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle type which shall bear  
22 the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the  
23 word "DEALER", one for franchised dealers in new motorcars  
24 (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motorcars  
25 (including trucks and trailers) which shall bear the

1 distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one for dealers  
 2 in used motorcars only (including used trucks and trailers)  
 3 which shall bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter  
 4 "U" and the word "DEALER", and one for dealers in trailers  
 5 and/or semitrailers (new or used) which shall bear the  
 6 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word  
 7 "DEALER". All such markings for the aforementioned kinds of  
 8 dealers' plates shall be placed on the number plates  
 9 assigned thereto in such position thereon as the division  
 10 may designate.

11 (2) All number plates for motor vehicles shall be  
 12 issued for a minimum period of 4 years, shall bear a  
 13 distinctive marking, and shall be furnished by the state.  
 14 In years when number plates are not issued, the division  
 15 shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate  
 16 registration numbers which shall be affixed to the license  
 17 plates in use.

18 (3) In the case of motorcars and trucks, number plates  
 19 shall be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. ~~For~~  
 20 ~~number-plates--issued-after-19767-the~~ The outline of the  
 21 state of Montana shall be used as a distinctive border on  
 22 such license plates, and the word "Montana" with the year  
 23 shall be placed across ~~the--bottom--of~~ the plate. Such  
 24 registration plate shall be treated with a reflectorized  
 25 background material according to specifications prescribed

1 by the division.

2 (4) The distinctive registration numbers shall begin  
 3 with a number one or with a letter-number combination such  
 4 as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of  
 5 letters and numbers ~~and-be-numbered-consecutively-for-each~~  
 6 ~~series-of-plates~~. The distinctive registration number or  
 7 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle shall  
 8 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and  
 9 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal  
 10 baseline, and the county number shall be separated from the  
 11 distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless  
 12 a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such  
 13 numerals and letters shall be determined by the division,  
 14 provided that all county and registration numbers shall be  
 15 of equal height.

16 (5) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles that are  
 17 also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as provided  
 18 in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532, in addition to the  
 19 markings herein provided, number plates shall have thereon  
 20 the following distinctive markings:

21 (a) For vehicles owned by the state the division may  
 22 designate the prefix number for the various state  
 23 departments, and all numbered plates issued to state  
 24 departments shall bear the words "State Owned" and no year  
 25 number will be indicated thereon as these numbered plates

1 will be of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the  
2 division at such time when the physical condition of  
3 numbered plates requires same.

4 (b) For vehicles owned by the counties,  
5 municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the  
6 laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school  
7 districts and used and operated by officials and employees  
8 thereof in line of duty as such, and for vehicles on loan  
9 from the United States government or the state of Montana,  
10 to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated  
11 by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty as  
12 such, there shall be placed on the number plates assigned  
13 thereto, in such position thereon as the division may  
14 designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive  
15 registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles  
16 of each of the counties in the state and those of the  
17 municipalities and school districts situated within each of  
18 said counties and those of the irrigation districts which  
19 obtain plates within each county shall begin with number one  
20 and be numbered consecutively.

21 (6) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of  
22 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks  
23 that are also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as  
24 provided in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532 and tax exempt  
25 trailers, there shall appear the letter "T" or the word

1 "TRUCK" for plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR"  
2 or the word "TRAILER" for plates assigned to trailers and  
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4 appear for plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle  
5 type.

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7 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle type may be  
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18 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big  
19 Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera,  
20 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;  
21 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;  
22 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;  
23 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;  
24 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;  
25 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,

1 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,  
2 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties shall be assigned numbers  
3 by the division as they may be formed, beginning with the  
4 number 57."

5 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Termination date. This act  
6 terminates July 1, 1991.

-End-

1 *Senate* BILL NO. *419*  
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Conover, Hefner - LANE Ullenthal*  
 3 *Richard E. Manning*  
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 13 of licensing motor vehicles within the state; or  
 14 (b) special or limited duration license plates valid  
 15 for licensing motor vehicles in the state and carrying the  
 16 same general centennial design as regularly issued license  
 17 plates provided for in [section 1], except that they may  
 18 differ from such regular license plates by:  
 19 (i) color;  
 20 (ii) use of a distinctive series of registration  
 21 numbers or special prefixes or suffixes for the  
 22 registration numbers; and  
 23 (iii) by other details not distracting from legibility  
 24 or recognition of the license plate.  
 25 (3) (a) The proceeds from the sale of commemorative



1 license plates, after payment of the agreed price to the  
2 division, must be used for centennial activities of the  
3 office as provided in \_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_ [LC 1078].

4 (b) The issuance of commemorative license plates must  
5 be made at no direct cost to the state.

6 (4) Commemorative license plates that are valid for  
7 licensing a motor vehicle must carry the assigned county  
8 number, as established in 61-3-332(8), either within the  
9 registration numbers or by means of an affixed nonremovable  
10 sticker bearing the appropriate county designation and used  
11 in accordance with instructions by the division.

12 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Administration. (1) The  
13 division of motor vehicles may by rule establish application  
14 procedures for the issuance of license plates authorized by  
15 [sections 1 through 3]. The rules may provide:

16 (a) for the issuance of regular license plates with a  
17 centennial design to persons wishing to purchase such plates  
18 to replace present plates;

19 (b) for the application for and issuance of  
20 commemorative centennial license plates valid for licensing  
21 motor vehicles, as authorized by [section 2];

22 (c) whether commemorative centennial license plates,  
23 if issued under [section 2], may be issued as personalized  
24 plates under the provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, part 4;  
25 and

1 (d) other procedures necessary for the proper  
2 administration of [sections 1 through 3].

3 (2) (a) The Montana statehood centennial office may  
4 request classes and variations of commemorative license  
5 plates, and each type or variation may be issued for a  
6 different price.

7 (b) For the issuance of commemorative license plates,  
8 the office shall contract with and provide for payment to  
9 the division for the production of such license plates. The  
10 contract must establish prices to be paid by the ultimate  
11 purchaser for the issuance of commemorative centennial  
12 license plates.

13 Section 4. Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:  
14 "61-3-332. Number plates. (1) Every motor vehicle  
15 which shall be driven upon the streets or highways of this  
16 state shall display both front and rear a number plate,  
17 bearing the distinctive number assigned such vehicle. Such  
18 number plate shall be in eight series: one series for owners  
19 of motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the  
20 motorcycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for  
21 dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle type which shall bear  
22 the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the  
23 word "DEALER", one for franchised dealers in new motorcars  
24 (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motorcars  
25 (including trucks and trailers) which shall bear the



1 distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one for dealers  
 2 in used motorcars only (including used trucks and trailers)  
 3 which shall bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter  
 4 "U" and the word "DEALER", and one for dealers in trailers  
 5 and/or semitrailers (new or used) which shall bear the  
 6 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word  
 7 "DEALER". All such markings for the aforementioned kinds of  
 8 dealers' plates shall be placed on the number plates  
 9 assigned thereto in such position thereon as the division  
 10 may designate.

11 (2) All number plates for motor vehicles shall be  
 12 issued for a minimum period of 4 years, shall bear a  
 13 distinctive marking, and shall be furnished by the state.  
 14 In years when number plates are not issued, the division  
 15 shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate  
 16 registration numbers which shall be affixed to the license  
 17 plates in use.

18 (3) In the case of motorcars and trucks, number plates  
 19 shall be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. Per  
 20 ~~number-plates--issued-after-1976~~ the The outline of the  
 21 state of Montana shall be used as a distinctive border on  
 22 such license plates, and the word "Montana" with the year  
 23 shall be placed across ~~the--bottom--of~~ the plate. Such  
 24 registration plate shall be treated with a reflectorized  
 25 background material according to specifications prescribed

1 by the division.

2 (4) The distinctive registration numbers shall begin  
 3 with a number one or with a letter-number combination such  
 4 as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of  
 5 letters and numbers ~~and-be-numbered-consecutively-for-each~~  
 6 ~~series-of-plates~~. The distinctive registration number or  
 7 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle shall  
 8 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and  
 9 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal  
 10 baseline, and the county number shall be separated from the  
 11 distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless  
 12 a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such  
 13 numerals and letters shall be determined by the division,  
 14 provided that all county and registration numbers shall be  
 15 of equal height.

16 (5) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles that are  
 17 also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as provided  
 18 in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532, in addition to the  
 19 markings herein provided, number plates shall have thereon  
 20 the following distinctive markings:

21 (a) For vehicles owned by the state the division may  
 22 designate the prefix number for the various state  
 23 departments, and all numbered plates issued to state  
 24 departments shall bear the words "State Owned" and no year  
 25 number will be indicated thereon as these numbered plates

1 will be of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the  
2 division at such time when the physical condition of  
3 numbered plates requires same.

4 (b) For vehicles owned by the counties,  
5 municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the  
6 laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school  
7 districts and used and operated by officials and employees  
8 thereof in line of duty as such, and for vehicles on loan  
9 from the United States government or the state of Montana,  
10 to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated  
11 by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty as  
12 such, there shall be placed on the number plates assigned  
13 thereto, in such position thereon as the division may  
14 designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive  
15 registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles  
16 of each of the counties in the state and those of the  
17 municipalities and school districts situated within each of  
18 said counties and those of the irrigation districts which  
19 obtain plates within each county shall begin with number one  
20 and be numbered consecutively.

21 (6) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of  
22 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks  
23 that are also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as  
24 provided in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532 and tax exempt  
25 trailers, there shall appear the letter "T" or the word

1 "TRUCK" for plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR"  
2 or the word "TRAILER" for plates assigned to trailers and  
3 housetrailer. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" shall  
4 appear for plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle  
5 type.

6 (7) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck,  
7 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle type may be  
8 transferred only to a replacement passenger car, truck,  
9 trailer, or motorcycle type vehicle. No registration or  
10 license fee may be assessed upon a transfer of a number  
11 plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

12 (8) For the purpose of this chapter, the several  
13 counties of the state shall be assigned numbers as follows:  
14 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4;  
15 Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;  
16 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12;  
17 Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt,  
18 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big  
19 Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera,  
20 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;  
21 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;  
22 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;  
23 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;  
24 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;  
25 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,

LC 0527/01

1 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,  
2 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties shall be assigned numbers  
3 by the division as they may be formed, beginning with the  
4 number 57."

5 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Termination date. This act  
6 terminates July 1, 1991.

-End-

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

MARCH 30 19 85

MR. SPEAKER:

We, your committee on HOUSE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

having had under consideration SENATE BILL Bill No. 419

THIRD reading copy ( BLUE )  
color

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF REGULAR LICENSE PLATES CARRYING A DESIGN TO RECOGNIZE THE CENTENNIAL OF MONTANA'S ADMISSION TO STATEHOOD; PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL LICENSE PLATES MAY BE ISSUED FOR AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THE CHARGE FOR REGULAR LICENSE PLATES, WITH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH SALES TO BE USED FOR MONTANA'S STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF SUCH PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-332, MCA; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE.

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE BILL Bill No. 419

Be amended as follows:

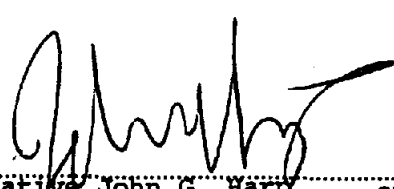
1. Page 9  
Following: line 6  
Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 6. Coordination instruction.  
If House Bill No. 873 (LC 1078) is not passed and approved,  
sections 1 through 5 of this act are void."

AND AS AMENDED

BE CONCURRED IN

EDCRASS

SK  
3/30

  
Representative John G. Harp, Chairman.

## 1 SENATE BILL NO. 419

2 INTRODUCED BY CONOVER, HALLIGAN, LANE, YELLOWTAIL,  
3 MAZUREK, HIRSCH, MANNING, STIMATZ, QUILICI, CONNELLY

4  
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
6 ISSUANCE OF REGULAR LICENSE PLATES CARRYING A DESIGN TO  
7 RECOGNIZE THE CENTENNIAL OF MONTANA'S ADMISSION TO  
8 STATEHOOD; PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL  
9 LICENSE PLATES MAY BE ISSUED FOR AN AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THE  
10 CHARGE FOR REGULAR LICENSE PLATES, WITH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH  
11 SALES TO BE USED FOR MONTANA'S STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL  
12 COMMEMORATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE  
13 AND ISSUANCE OF SUCH PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 61-3-332, MCA;  
14 AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

15  
16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

17 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Regular issue centennial  
18 license plates -- design of regular or commemorative plates.  
19 (1) The division of motor vehicles, in issuing license  
20 plates under the provisions of 61-3-321, shall provide for  
21 the issuance of regular license plates carrying a design  
22 recognizing the centennial of Montana's 1889 admission to  
23 statehood.

24 (2) The design of the license plates issued under the  
25 provisions of [section 2] or this section must be developed

1 in consultation with the Montana statehood centennial office  
2 established by \_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_ [LC 1078].

3 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Commemorative centennial  
4 license plates. (1) Notwithstanding the 4-year period  
5 provided for in 61-3-332(2), the division may issue  
6 commemorative centennial license plates for a different  
7 period if requested by the Montana statehood centennial  
8 office, at prices to be agreed upon by the division and the  
9 office as provided in [section 3].

10 (2) Commemorative license plates may be:

11 (a) collectors' license plates, intended to be  
12 collectors' items only, distinctively marked or colored.  
13 Such plates may be designated as not valid for the purpose  
14 of licensing motor vehicles within the state; or

15 (b) special or limited duration license plates valid  
16 for licensing motor vehicles in the state and carrying the  
17 same general centennial design as regularly issued license  
18 plates provided for in [section 1], except that they may  
19 differ from such regular license plates by:

20 (i) color;

21 (ii) use of a distinctive series of registration  
22 numbers or special prefixes or suffixes for the  
23 registration numbers; and

24 (iii) by other details not distracting from legibility  
25 or recognition of the license plate.

1 (3) (a) The proceeds from the sale of commemorative  
2 license plates, after payment of the agreed price to the  
3 division, must be used for centennial activities of the  
4 office as provided in \_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_ [LC 1078].

5 (b) The issuance of commemorative license plates must  
6 be made at no direct cost to the state.

7 (4) Commemorative license plates that are valid for  
8 licensing a motor vehicle must carry the assigned county  
9 number, as established in 61-3-332(8), either within the  
10 registration numbers or by means of an affixed nonremovable  
11 sticker bearing the appropriate county designation and used  
12 in accordance with instructions by the division.

13 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Administration. (1) The  
14 division of motor vehicles may by rule establish application  
15 procedures for the issuance of license plates authorized by  
16 [sections 1 through 3]. The rules may provide:

17 (a) for the issuance of regular license plates with a  
18 centennial design to persons wishing to purchase such plates  
19 to replace present plates;

20 (b) for the application for and issuance of  
21 commemorative centennial license plates valid for licensing  
22 motor vehicles, as authorized by [section 2];

23 (c) whether commemorative centennial license plates,  
24 if issued under [section 2], may be issued as personalized  
25 plates under the provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, part 4;

1 and

2 (d) other procedures necessary for the proper  
3 administration of [sections 1 through 3].

4 (2) (a) The Montana statehood centennial office may  
5 request classes and variations of commemorative license  
6 plates, and each type or variation may be issued for a  
7 different price.

8 (b) For the issuance of commemorative license plates,  
9 the office shall contract with and provide for payment to  
10 the division for the production of such license plates. The  
11 contract must establish prices to be paid by the ultimate  
12 purchaser for the issuance of commemorative centennial  
13 license plates.

14 Section 4. Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

15 "61-3-332. Number plates. (1) Every motor vehicle  
16 which shall be driven upon the streets or highways of this  
17 state shall display both front and rear a number plate,  
18 bearing the distinctive number assigned such vehicle. Such  
19 number plate shall be in eight series: one series for owners  
20 of motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the  
21 motorcycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for  
22 dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle type which shall bear  
23 the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the  
24 word "DEALER", one for franchised dealers in new motorcars  
25 (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motorcars

1 (including trucks and trailers) which shall bear the  
 2 distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one for dealers  
 3 in used motorcars only (including used trucks and trailers)  
 4 which shall bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter  
 5 "U" and the word "DEALER", and one for dealers in trailers  
 6 and/or semitrailers (new or used) which shall bear the  
 7 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word  
 8 "DEALER". All such markings for the aforementioned kinds of  
 9 dealers' plates shall be placed on the number plates  
 10 assigned thereto in such position thereon as the division  
 11 may designate.

12 (2) All number plates for motor vehicles shall be  
 13 issued for a minimum period of 4 years, shall bear a  
 14 distinctive marking, and shall be furnished by the state.  
 15 In years when number plates are not issued, the division  
 16 shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate  
 17 registration numbers which shall be affixed to the license  
 18 plates in use.

19 (3) In the case of motorcars and trucks, number plates  
 20 shall be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. For  
 21 ~~number-plates--issued-after-1976,--the~~ The outline of the  
 22 state of Montana shall be used as a distinctive border on  
 23 such license plates, and the word "Montana" with the year  
 24 shall be placed across ~~the--bottom--of~~ the plate. Such  
 25 registration plate shall be treated with a reflectorized

1 background material according to specifications prescribed  
 2 by the division.

3 (4) The distinctive registration numbers shall begin  
 4 with a number one or with a letter-number combination such  
 5 as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of  
 6 letters and numbers ~~and-be-numbered-consecutively-for-each~~  
 7 ~~series-of-plates~~. The distinctive registration number or  
 8 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle shall  
 9 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and  
 10 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal  
 11 baseline, and the county number shall be separated from the  
 12 distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless  
 13 a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such  
 14 numerals and letters shall be determined by the division,  
 15 provided that all county and registration numbers shall be  
 16 of equal height.

17 (5) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles that are  
 18 also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as provided  
 19 in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532, in addition to the  
 20 markings herein provided, number plates shall have thereon  
 21 the following distinctive markings:

22 (a) For vehicles owned by the state the division may  
 23 designate the prefix number for the various state  
 24 departments, and all numbered plates issued to state  
 25 departments shall bear the words "State Owned" and no year

1 number will be indicated thereon as these numbered plates  
 2 will be of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the  
 3 division at such time when the physical condition of  
 4 numbered plates requires same.

5 (b) For vehicles owned by the counties,  
 6 municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the  
 7 laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school  
 8 districts and used and operated by officials and employees  
 9 thereof in line of duty as such, and for vehicles on loan  
 10 from the United States government or the state of Montana,  
 11 to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated  
 12 by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty as  
 13 such, there shall be placed on the number plates assigned  
 14 thereto, in such position thereon as the division may  
 15 designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive  
 16 registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles  
 17 of each of the counties in the state and those of the  
 18 municipalities and school districts situated within each of  
 19 said counties and those of the irrigation districts which  
 20 obtain plates within each county shall begin with number one  
 21 and be numbered consecutively.

22 (6) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of  
 23 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks  
 24 that are also exempt from the light vehicle license fee as  
 25 provided in subsection (2)(a) of 61-3-532 and tax exempt

1 trailers, there shall appear the letter "T" or the word  
 2 "TRUCK" for plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR"  
 3 or the word "TRAILER" for plates assigned to trailers and  
 4 housetrailers. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" shall  
 5 appear for plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle  
 6 type.

7 (7) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck,  
 8 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle type may be  
 9 transferred only to a replacement passenger car, truck,  
 10 trailer, or motorcycle type vehicle. No registration or  
 11 license fee may be assessed upon a transfer of a number  
 12 plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

13 (8) For the purpose of this chapter, the several  
 14 counties of the state shall be assigned numbers as follows:  
 15 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4;  
 16 Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;  
 17 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12;  
 18 Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt,  
 19 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big  
 20 Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera,  
 21 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;  
 22 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;  
 23 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;  
 24 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;  
 25 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;



1 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,  
2 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,  
3 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties shall be assigned numbers  
4 by the division as they may be formed, beginning with the  
5 number 57."

6 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Termination date. This act  
7 terminates July 1, 1991.

8 NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. IF  
9 HOUSE BILL NO. 873 [LC 1078] IS NOT PASSED AND APPROVED,  
10 SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 5 OF THIS ACT ARE VOID.

-End-