

HOUSE BILL 15

Introduced by Pavlovich

12/23/	Introduced
12/30	Referred to Highways & Transportation
12/31	Fiscal Note Requested
1/04	First Reading
1/11	Fiscal Note Received
2/12	Tabled in Committee

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 15

2 INTRODUCED BY PAVLOVICH

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE
5 ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES TO STATION
6 LICENSEES OF THE MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM (MARS);
7 PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION AND FEE FOR THE SPECIAL PLATES;
8 REQUIRING THAT A LIST OF MARS SPECIAL PLATE RECIPIENTS BE
9 FURNISHED TO CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS; AND PROVIDING FOR
10 TRANSFER OF THE SPECIAL PLATES UPON SALE OF THE MOTOR
11 VEHICLE AND FOR RETURN OF THE SPECIAL PLATES UPON REVOCATION
12 OR EXPIRATION OF THE MARS STATION LICENSE."

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14 STATEMENT OF INTENT

15 A statement of intent is required for this bill because
16 [section 3] grants the department of justice rulemaking
17 authority to ensure that the military affiliate radio system
18 (MARS) special license plates authorized under [section 1]
19 are issued in compliance with all applicable motor vehicle
20 licensing laws. It is intended that the department establish
21 a procedure to verify that applicants for the special plates
22 hold a valid military affiliate radio system (MARS) station
23 license authorized by the U.S. Department of Defense and
24 issued by the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Navy/Marine Corps. It
25 is intended that the process for issuance of the plates and

1 the regulations regarding their use, as well as notification
2 of public officials required under [section 4], be similar
3 to and no more burdensome than the process and regulations
4 presently applicable to amateur radio operator special
5 license plates.
6

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

8 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Military affiliate radio
9 system operators -- special license plate. A motor vehicle
10 owner and resident of this state who holds a valid military
11 affiliate radio system (MARS) station license authorized by
12 the department of defense of the United States, upon written
13 application on a form prescribed by the department,
14 accompanied by proof of ownership of the MARS station
15 license, must be issued two identically lettered license
16 plates in lieu of the regular license plates prescribed by
17 law. There must be stamped or impressed upon the special
18 license plates in clear lettering the official MARS call
19 letters of the owner as assigned to the owner by the federal
20 department of defense. The plates must be renewed as
21 provided in 61-3-312.

22 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Issuance -- application --
23 additional fee. The department shall issue lettered license
24 plates as provided in [section 1] to military affiliate
25 radio system (MARS) station licensees upon:

(1) application showing proof that the applicant is the owner and holder of a valid MARS station license;

(2) compliance with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles;

(3) payment, or proof of payment, of all other fees and taxes applicable to regular motor vehicle license plates; and

(4) payment of a \$5 additional fee.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Rules -- limit of one identical pair of plates for each operator. The department shall make rules as may be necessary to procure compliance with all the laws of the state regulating the issuance of motor vehicle licenses relating to the use and operation of motor vehicles before issuing the lettered license plates. The department may not issue more than one identical pair of lettered license plates for any military affiliate radio system (MARS) station licensee in any one licensing period.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. List of MARS special plates -- distribution to public officials. The department shall, on or before July 1 of each year, furnish to the public officials listed in 61-3-424, in conjunction with or in addition to the lists required for amateur radio operator special license plate recipients, an alphabetically arranged list of the names, addresses, and license plate numbers and letters of each person to whom a military affiliate radio

system (MARS) special license plate has been issued. It is the duty of the department and the affected public officials to maintain and keep current those lists for public information and inquiry, particularly in relation to public emergencies.

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Special plates -- how affixed to motor vehicle -- sale or transfer of motor vehicle -- revocation or expiration of military affiliate radio system station license. Lettered license plates issued under [section 1] are in lieu of the regular license plates on the motor vehicle owned by the military affiliate radio system (MARS) station licensee for the period of time that the MARS station license is in force under the department of defense and the special license plate issued under [section 1] is in force, but no longer. If the MARS station license is revoked or expires for any reason, the license plate must be removed immediately by the owner of the motor vehicle, and it is the responsibility of the owner to then obtain regular license plates. If the motor vehicle is sold or otherwise transferred, the owner and holder of a valid MARS station license has the right to transfer the lettered plates to another motor vehicle owned by that person upon conditions prescribed by the department. On the revocation or expiration of the MARS station license, the lettered license plates must be returned to the department.

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1 NEW SECTION. **Section 6.** Codification instruction.
2 [Sections 1 through 5] are intended to be codified as an
3 integral part of Title 61, chapter 3, part 4, and the
4 provisions of Title 61, chapter 3, part 4, apply to
5 [sections 1 through 5].

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