

SENATE BILL 56

Introduced by Vaughn

12/23 Introduced
23/23 Referred to Highways & Transportation
1/04 First Reading
1/05 Fiscal Note Requested
1/07 Hearing
1/11 Fiscal Note Received
1/11 Fiscal Note Printed
1/15 Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended
1/16 2nd Reading Passed
1/18 3rd Reading Passed

Transmitted to House
1/19 Referred to Highways & Transportation
1/19 First Reading
1/27 Hearing
1/29 Tabled in Committee

1 SENATE BILL NO. 56

2 INTRODUCED BY VAUGHN

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING SPECIAL
5 LICENSE PLATES FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE PERSONNEL;
6 ALLOCATING PART OF THE LICENSE FEES TO THE FIRE SERVICES
7 TRAINING SCHOOL AND PART OF THE LICENSE FEES TO THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES; AMENDING
9 SECTIONS 61-3-332 AND 61-3-446, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED
10 EFFECTIVE DATE."

11
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 **Section 1.** Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

14 "61-3-332. (Temporary) Number plates. (1) A motor
15 vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of
16 Montana must display both front and rear number plates,
17 bearing the distinctive number assigned the vehicle. The
18 number plates are in 10 series: one series for owners of
19 motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the
20 motorcycle or quadricycle type, one for trailers, one for
21 trucks, one for dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle or
22 quadricycle type that bear the distinctive letters "MCD" or
23 the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER", one for franchised
24 dealers in new motorcars (including trucks and trailers) or
25 new and used motorcars (including trucks and trailers) that

1 bear the distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one
2 for dealers in used motorcars only (including used trucks
3 and trailers) that bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the
4 letter "U" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in
5 trailers and/or semitrailers (new or used) that bear the
6 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word
7 "DEALER", one for dealers in recreational vehicles that bear
8 the distinctive letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word
9 "DEALER", and one for special license plates. All markings
10 for the various kinds of dealers' plates must be placed on
11 the number plates assigned thereto in the position that the
12 department designates.

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

19 (3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the
20 department shall create a new design for number plates as
21 provided in this section, and it shall manufacture the newly
22 designed number plates for issuance after January 17, 1991,
23 to replace, at renewal as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314,
24 number plates that were displayed on motor vehicles before
25 that date.

(4) In the case of motorcars and trucks, plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. The outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on such the license plates, and the word "Montana" and the year must be placed across the plates. Such-registration Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.

(5) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers. The distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

(6) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in addition to the markings provided in this section, number plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

(a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may

designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and no a year number may not be indicated thereon on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

(b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties, municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school districts and that are used and operated by officials and employees thereof in line of duty and for vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty, there must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and school districts situated within each of the counties and those of the irrigation districts that obtain plates within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these number plates are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the

1 department only when the physical condition of the number
2 plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on
3 the number plates.

4 (7) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of
5 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and
6 tax-exempt trailers, there must appear the letter "T" or the
7 word "TRUCK" on plates assigned to trucks and the letters
8 "TR" or the word "TRAILER" on plates assigned to trailers
9 and house trailers. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" must
10 appear on plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle or
11 quadricycle type.

12 (8) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck,
13 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle or quadricycle type
14 may be transferred only to a replacement passenger car,
15 truck, trailer, or motorcycle- or quadricycle-type vehicle.
16 No A registration or license fee may not be assessed upon a
17 transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

18 (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several
19 counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows:
20 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4;
21 Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;
22 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12;
23 Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt,
24 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big
25 Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera,

1 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;
2 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;
3 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;
4 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;
5 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;
6 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,
7 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,
8 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers
9 by the department as they may be formed, beginning with the
10 number 57.

11 (10) Each type of special license plate approved by the
12 legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in
13 61-3-463, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as
14 provided in subsection (5), except that the county number
15 must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal
16 designating the group or organization to which the applicant
17 belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this
18 section, the special plates are subject to the same rules
19 and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates,
20 must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the person
21 who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon
22 sale or other disposition of the vehicle. The special
23 license plates must be issued to national guard members,
24 former prisoners of war, handicapped persons, reservists,
25 disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack,

1 veterans of the armed services, or veterans of the armed
 2 services who were awarded the purple heart medal, active or
 3 retired firefighters, or ambulance personnel who comply with
 4 the following provisions:

5 (a) An active member of the Montana national guard may
 6 be issued a special license plate with a design or decal
 7 displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall
 8 issue to each active member of the Montana national guard a
 9 certificate authorizing the department to issue one set of
 10 national guard plates, and the member shall surrender the
 11 plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use
 12 them.

13 (b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the
 14 United States of America who is a resident of this state may
 15 be issued a special license plate with a design or decal
 16 displaying the following: United States army reserve, AR
 17 (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United
 18 States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); and United States
 19 marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding
 20 officer of each armed forces reserve unit shall issue to
 21 each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate
 22 authorizing the issuance of one set of plates. The member
 23 shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming
 24 ineligible to use them.

25 (c) A resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed

1 forces of the United States and who is 100% disabled because
 2 of an injury that has been determined by the department of
 3 veterans affairs to be service-connected may, upon
 4 presentation to the department of proof of the 100%
 5 disability, be issued a special license plate under this
 6 section with a design or decal displaying the letters "DV".

7 (i) The fee for original or renewal registration by a
 8 100% disabled veteran for a passenger vehicle or a truck
 9 with a GVW-rated capacity of 1 ton or less is \$5 and is in
 10 lieu of all other fees and taxes for that vehicle under this
 11 chapter.

12 (ii) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran
 13 are not transferable to another person.

14 (iii) A disabled veteran is not entitled to a special
 15 license plate for more than one vehicle.

16 (iv) A vehicle lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's
 17 plate and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is
 18 entitled to the parking privileges allowed a handicapped
 19 person's vehicle under this title.

20 (d) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
 21 forces of the United States and was captured and held
 22 prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented
 23 by his the veteran's service record, may upon application
 24 and presentation of proof be issued a special license plate
 25 with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of

1 war" or an abbreviation the department considers
2 appropriate.

3 (e) Upon payment of all taxes and fees required by
4 parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof
5 satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets the
6 requirements of this subsection (e), the department shall
7 issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
8 services of the United States special license plates, for
9 one motor vehicle only, designed to indicate that the
10 applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the
11 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on
12 December 7, 1941, was on station on December 7, 1941, during
13 the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl
14 Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance of not
15 more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from
16 the United States armed forces. If special license plates
17 issued under this subsection are lost, stolen, or mutilated,
18 the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement
19 plates upon request and without charge.

20 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state
21 who is a veteran of the armed services of the United States
22 may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in
23 subsection (10)(f)(i) if he the person was separated from
24 the armed services under other than dishonorable
25 circumstances or was awarded the purple heart medal:

1 (i) Upon submission of proof, in a form prescribed by
2 the department, of his the person's qualification under this
3 subsection, there must be issued to each applicant, in lieu
4 of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special
5 license plates numbered in sets of two with a different
6 number on each set. The plates must display:

7 (A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the
8 United States army, United States navy, United States air
9 force, United States marine corps, or United States coast
10 guard, according to the record of service verified in the
11 application; or

12 (B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal.

13 (ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the
14 county treasurer, who shall issue them to qualified
15 veterans. The plates must be placed or mounted on the
16 vehicle owned by the veteran designated in the application
17 and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the
18 vehicle.

19 (iii) Each veteran who receives special license plates
20 under this subsection (10)(f) is liable for payment of all
21 taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter
22 and a special veteran's or purple heart medal license plate
23 fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license under
24 this subsection (10)(f), the county treasurer shall:

25 (A) deposit \$3 of the special fee in the county general

1 fund;

2 (B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

3 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the

4 state special revenue fund to the credit of the department

5 of military affairs to be appropriated by the legislature

6 for construction, operation, and maintenance of the state

7 veterans' cemetery.

8 (iv) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the

9 county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as

10 provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii)(C).

11 (g) (i) An active or retired member of a local

12 firefighter force who is a resident of this state may be

13 issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with

14 a different number on each set. The plates must display a

15 design or decal of the symbol of the Maltese cross and the

16 term "retired" if the firefighter is retired. The chief of

17 the local firefighter force shall issue to each eligible

18 member of the force a certificate authorizing the issuance

19 of special license plates. The member shall surrender the

20 plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use

21 them.

22 (ii) Each firefighter who receives special license

23 plates under subsection (10)(g)(i) is liable for payment of

24 all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this

25 chapter and a special fire service license plate fee of \$10.

1 Upon an original application for a license under this

2 subsection (10)(g), the county treasurer shall:

3 (A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general

4 fund;

5 (B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

6 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the

7 state special revenue fund to the credit of the fire

8 services training school to be appropriated by the

9 legislature for additional training, training aids, and

10 higher education for firefighters.

11 (iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration,

12 the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as

13 provided in subsection (10)(g)(ii)(C).

14 (h) (i) An active or retired member of an ambulance

15 service who is a resident of the state may be issued special

16 license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different

17 number on each set. The plates must display a design or

18 decal of the symbol of the star of life and the term

19 "retired" if the person is retired. The board of directors

20 of each ambulance service shall issue to each eligible

21 member of the ambulance service a certificate authorizing

22 the issuance of special license plates. The member shall

23 surrender the plates to the department upon becoming

24 ineligible to use them.

25 (ii) Each member of an ambulance service who receives

special license plates under subsection (10)(h)(i) is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special ambulance service license plate fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(h), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of health and environmental sciences to be appropriated by the legislature for additional training, training aids, and higher education for ambulance personnel.

(iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(h)(ii)(C).

†g†(i) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of the handicapped person. (Terminates July 1, 1996--sec. 4, Ch. 654, L. 1989.)

61-3-332. (Effective July 1, 1996) Number plates. (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of

Montana must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned the vehicle. The number plates are in 10 series: one series for owners of motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type that bear the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER", one for franchised dealers in new motorcars (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motorcars (including trucks and trailers) that bear the distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one for dealers in used motorcars only (including used trucks and trailers) that bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter "U" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in trailers and/or semitrailers (new or used) that bear the distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in recreational vehicles that bear the distinctive letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER", and one for special license plates. All markings for the various kinds of dealers' plates must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto in the position that the department designates.

(2) All number plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a minimum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be furnished by the state. In years when number plates

1 are not issued, the department shall provide nonremovable
2 stickers bearing appropriate registration numbers that must
3 be affixed to the license plates in use.

4 (3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the
5 department shall create a new design for number plates as
6 provided in this section, ~~and it shall manufacture the newly~~
7 ~~designed--number--plates-for-issuance-after-January-17-1991,~~
8 ~~to-replace--at-renewal-as-required-in-61-3-312-and-61-3-314,~~
9 ~~number-plates-that-were-displayed-on-motor--vehicles--before~~
10 ~~that-date.~~

11 (4) In the case of motorcars and trucks, number plates
12 must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. For
13 number plates issued after 1976, the outline of the state of
14 Montana must be used as a distinctive border on such the
15 license plates, and the word "Montana" and the year must be
16 placed across the bottom of the plates. ~~Such-registration~~
17 Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized
18 background material according to specifications prescribed
19 by the department.

20 (5) The distinctive registration numbers must begin
21 with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such
22 as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of
23 letters and numbers and be numbered consecutively for each
24 series of plates. The distinctive registration number or
25 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must

1 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and
2 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal
3 baseline. The county number must be separated from the
4 distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless
5 a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such
6 numerals and letters must be determined by the department,
7 and all county and registration numbers must be of equal
8 height.

9 (6) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in
10 addition to the markings in this section provided, number
11 plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

12 (a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may
13 designate the prefix number for the various state
14 departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments
15 must bear the words "State Owned", and no a year number may
16 not be indicated thereon on the plates because these
17 numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be
18 replaced by the department only when the physical condition
19 of numbered plates requires it.

20 (b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties,
21 municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the
22 laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school
23 districts and that are used and operated by officials and
24 employees thereof in line of duty and for vehicles on loan
25 from the United States government or the state of Montana

1 to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated
 2 by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty,
 3 there must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto,
 4 in a position that the department may designate, the letter
 5 "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers
 6 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 the counties and
 9 those of the irrigation districts that obtain plates within
 10 each county must begin with number one and be numbered
 11 consecutively. Because these number plates are of a
 12 permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the
 13 department only when the physical condition of the number
 14 plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on
 15 the number plates.

16 (7) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of
 17 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and
 18 tax-exempt trailers, there must appear the letter "T" or the
 19 word "TRUCK" on plates assigned to trucks and the letters
 20 "TR" or the word "TRAILER" on plates assigned to trailers
 21 and housetrailer. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" must
 22 appear on plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle or
 23 quadricycle type.

24 (8) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck,
 25 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle or quadricycle type

1 may be transferred only to a replacement passenger car,
 2 truck, trailer, or motorcycle- or quadricycle-type vehicle.
 3 No A registration or license fee may not be assessed upon a
 4 transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

5 (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several
 6 counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows:
 7 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4;
 8 Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;
 9 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12;
 10 Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt,
 11 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big
 12 Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera,
 13 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;
 14 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;
 15 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;
 16 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;
 17 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;
 18 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,
 19 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,
 20 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers
 21 by the department as they may be formed, beginning with the
 22 number 57.

23 (10) Each type of special license plate approved by the
 24 legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in
 25 61-3-463, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as

provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle. The special license plates must be issued to national guard members, former prisoners of war, handicapped persons, reservists, disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack, veterans of the armed services, or veterans of the armed services who were awarded the purple heart medal, active or retired firefighters, or ambulance personnel who comply with the following provisions:

(a) An active member of the Montana national guard may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall issue to each active member of the Montana national guard a certificate authorizing the department to issue one set of national guard plates, and the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the

United States of America who is a resident of this state may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the following: United States army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); and United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding officer of each armed forces reserve unit shall issue to each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate authorizing the issuance of one set of plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(c) A resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and who is 100% disabled because of an injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be service-connected may, upon presentation to the department of proof of the 100% disability, be issued a special license plate under this section with a design or decal displaying the letters "DV".

(i) The fee for original or renewal registration by a 100% disabled veteran for a passenger vehicle or a truck with a GVW-rated capacity of 1 ton or less is \$5 and is in lieu of all other fees and taxes for that vehicle under this chapter.

(ii) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran are not transferable to another person.

1 (iii) A disabled veteran is not entitled to a special
2 license plate for more than one vehicle.

3 (iv) A vehicle lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's
4 plate and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is
5 entitled to the parking privileges allowed a handicapped
6 person's vehicle under this title.

7 (d) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
8 forces of the United States and was captured and held
9 prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented
10 by his the veteran's service record, may upon application
11 and presentation of proof be issued a special license plate
12 with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of
13 war" or an abbreviation the department considers
14 appropriate.

15 (e) Upon payment of all taxes and fees required by
16 parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof
17 satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets the
18 requirements of this subsection (e), the department shall
19 issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
20 services of the United States special license plates, for
21 one motor vehicle only, designed to indicate that the
22 applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the
23 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on
24 December 7, 1941, was on station on December 7, 1941, during
25 the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl

1 Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance of not
2 more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from
3 the United States armed forces. If special license plates
4 issued under this subsection are lost, stolen, or mutilated,
5 the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement
6 plates upon request and without charge.

7 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state
8 who is a veteran of the armed services of the United States
9 may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in
10 subsection (10)(f)(i) if he the person was separated from
11 the armed services under other than dishonorable
12 circumstances or was awarded the purple heart medal:

13 (i) Upon submission of proof, in a form prescribed by
14 the department, of his the person's qualification under this
15 subsection, there must be issued to each applicant, in lieu
16 of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special
17 license plates numbered in sets of two with a different
18 number on each set. The plates must display:

19 (A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the
20 United States army, United States navy, United States air
21 force, United States marine corps, or United States coast
22 guard, according to the record of service verified in the
23 application; or

24 (B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal.

25 (ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the

1 county treasurer, who shall issue them to qualified
 2 veterans. The plates must be placed or mounted on the
 3 vehicle owned by the veteran designated in the application
 4 and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the
 5 vehicle.

6 (iii) Each veteran who receives special license plates
 7 under this subsection (10)(f) is liable for payment of all
 8 taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter
 9 and a special veteran's or purple heart medal license plate
 10 fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license under
 11 this subsection (10)(f), the county treasurer shall:

12 (A) deposit \$3 of the special fee in the county general
 13 fund;

14 (B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

15 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
 16 state special revenue fund to the credit of the department
 17 of military affairs to be appropriated by the legislature
 18 for construction, operation, and maintenance of the state
 19 veterans' cemetery.

20 (iv) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the
 21 county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
 22 provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii)(C).

23 (g) (i) An active or retired member of a local
 24 firefighter force who is a resident of this state may be
 25 issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with

1 a different number on each set. The plates must display a
 2 design or decal of the symbol of the Maltese cross and the
 3 term "retired" if the firefighter is retired. The chief of
 4 the local firefighter force shall issue to each eligible
 5 member of the force a certificate authorizing the issuance
 6 of special license plates. The member shall surrender the
 7 plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use
 8 them.

9 (ii) Each firefighter who receives special license
 10 plates under subsection (10)(g)(i) is liable for payment of
 11 all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this
 12 chapter and a special fire service license plate fee of \$10.
 13 Upon an original application for a license under this
 14 subsection (10)(g), the county treasurer shall:

15 (A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general
 16 fund;

17 (B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

18 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
 19 state special revenue fund to the credit of the fire
 20 services training school to be appropriated by the
 21 legislature for additional training, training aids, and
 22 higher education for firefighters.

23 (iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration,
 24 the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
 25 provided in subsection (10)(g)(ii)(C).

1 (h) (i) An active or retired member of an ambulance
 2 service who is a resident of this state may be issued
 3 special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a
 4 different number on each set. The plates must display a
 5 design or decal of the symbol of the star of life and the
 6 term "retired" if the person is retired. The board of
 7 directors of each ambulance service shall issue to each
 8 eligible member of the ambulance service a certificate
 9 authorizing the issuance of special license plates. The
 10 member shall surrender the plates to the department upon
 11 becoming ineligible to use them.

12 (ii) Each member of an ambulance service who receives
 13 special license plates under subsection (10)(h)(i) is liable
 14 for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and
 15 4 of this chapter and a special ambulance service license
 16 plate fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license
 17 under this subsection (10)(h), the county treasurer shall:

18 (A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general
 19 fund;

20 (B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

21 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
 22 state special revenue fund to the credit of the department
 23 of health and environmental sciences to be appropriated by
 24 the legislature for additional training, training aids, and
 25 higher education for ambulance personnel.

1 (iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration,
 2 the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
 3 provided in subsection (10)(h)(ii)(C).

4 ~~(g)(i)~~ A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a
 5 special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written
 6 application on a form prescribed by the department, be
 7 issued a special license plate with a design or decal
 8 bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of
 9 the handicapped person."

10 **Section 2.** Section 61-3-446, MCA, is amended to read:

11 "61-3-446. Retention of special license plates. If
 12 during a registration year the holder of special license
 13 plates issued under 61-3-332(10)(b) through ~~(10)(h)~~ (10)(h)
 14 disposes of the vehicle to which the plates are affixed, he
 15 the holder shall retain the plates and may affix them to
 16 another vehicle."

17 **NEW SECTION. Section 3.** Effective date. [This act] is
 18 effective January 1, 1994.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for SB0056, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION: An act creating special license plates for firefighters and ambulance personnel and allocating part of the license fees to the Fire Services Training School and part of the license fees to the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

ASSUMPTIONS:

Department of Justice

1. There are 8,000 active and retired firefighters and 2,000 active and retired ambulance personnel currently in Montana. Half of those eligible will purchase special plates, or 5,000. Because the effective date is 1/1/94, half (2,500) will purchase in FY94 and half (2,500) in FY95.
2. Start up expenditures of the Department of Justice during FY94 will be design costs of \$2,000 and 150 hours of computer programming, costing \$5,700. In addition postage and handling will cost \$5 per set of plates (\$5 X 2,500 = \$12,500 each year).

Fire Services Training School

3. Matching grants will be provided to local fire services for the development of training programs and facilities. It is assumed that 90% of the annual revenue from this special fee (\$8 per plate X 2,000 = \$16,000) will be granted to local fire services.
4. Additional administrative costs incurred by the Fire Services Training School will be funded by revenue appropriated from the state special revenue account. It is estimated that 10% of the revenue from this special fee will be used for increased operating expenses.

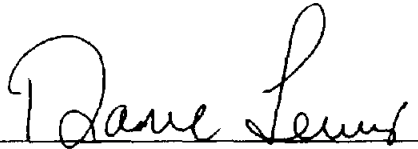
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences

5. Special fees and corresponding expenditures under this bill will involve the Health Services and Medical Facilities Program. It is estimated that annual special revenue from the license plate fee will be \$4,000 (\$8 X 500).

Department of Corrections and Human Services

6. There will be minimal increased expenditures incurred in the production of these special license plates.

FISCAL IMPACT: (continued)

 1-11-93
DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning

 1/11/93
ELEANOR VAUGHN, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

Fiscal Note for SB0056, as introduced

SB 56

FISCAL IMPACT:

Department of Justice:

	FY94			FY95		
	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference
<u>Expenditures:</u>						
FTE	626.50	626.50	0	614.00	614.00	0
Personal Services	21,417,933	21,417,933	0	21,237,220	21,237,220	0
Operating Costs	8,123,837	8,144,037	20,200	7,674,581	7,687,081	12,500
Equipment	1,695,819	1,695,819	0	1,672,557	1,672,557	0
Debt Service	227,829	227,829	0	255,329	255,329	0
Total	31,465,418	31,485,618	20,200	30,839,687	30,852,187	12,500
<u>Funding:</u>						
General Fund	7,238,602	7,258,802	20,200	6,751,881	6,764,381	12,500
State Special	22,617,760	22,617,760	0	22,487,293	22,487,293	0
Federal Special	1,017,689	1,017,689	0	1,007,338	1,007,338	0
Proprietary Fund	591,367	591,367	0	593,175	593,175	0
Total	31,465,118	31,485,318	20,200	30,839,687	30,852,187	12,500

Fire Services Training School:

	FY94			FY95		
	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference
<u>Expenditures:</u>						
FTE	5.44	5.44	0	5.44	5.44	0
Personal Services	218,340	218,340	0	221,636	221,636	0
Operating Costs	41,255	42,855	1,600	38,601	40,201	1,600
Equipment	246	246	0	9,646	9,646	0
Local Assistance	0	14,400	14,400	0	14,400	14,400
Total	259,841	275,841	16,000	269,883	285,883	16,000
<u>Funding:</u>						
General Fund	259,841	259,841	0	269,883	269,883	0
State Special	0	16,000	16,000	0	16,000	16,000
Total	259,841	275,841	16,000	269,883	285,883	16,000

Department of Health and Environmental Sciences-Health Services and Medical Facilities Program:

	FY94			FY95		
	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference
<u>Expenditures:</u>						
FTE	17.22	17.22	0	17.22	17.22	0
Personal Services	603,955	603,955	0	604,781	604,781	0
Operating Costs	842,769	846,769	4,000	846,506	850,506	4,000
Equipment	<u>7,300</u>	<u>7,300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,300</u>	<u>8,300</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,454,024	1,458,024	4,000	1,459,587	1,463,587	4,000
<u>Funding:</u>						
General Fund	565,675	565,675	0	569,282	569,282	0
State Special	196,201	200,201	4,000	196,278	200,278	4,000
Federal Special	<u>692,148</u>	<u>692,148</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>694,027</u>	<u>694,027</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1,454,024	1,458,024	4,000	1,459,587	1,463,587	4,000

Revenues:

	FY94			FY95		
	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference
General Fund	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	2,500
State Special	<u>0</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Total	0	22,500	22,500	0	22,500	22,500

Net Impact:

	FY94			FY95		
	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference
General Fund	0	(17,700)	(17,700)	0	(10,000)	(10,000)
State Special	0	0	0	0	0	0

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES: Counties will share initial revenues of \$2,500 in FY94 and FY95. Local government may also benefit from training grants to local fire services and increased training services for ambulance personnel with no appreciable extra costs.

SB 56

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 56

INTRODUCED BY VAUGHN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE PERSONNEL OF A LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE; ALLOCATING PART OF THE LICENSE FEES TO THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AND, PART OF THE LICENSE FEES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, AND PART OF THE LICENSE FEES TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-332 AND 61-3-446, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-3-332. (Temporary) Number plates. (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of Montana must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned the vehicle. The number plates are in 10 series: one series for owners of motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type that bear the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER", one for franchised dealers in new motorcars (including trucks and trailers) or

new and used motorcars (including trucks and trailers) that bear the distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one for dealers in used motorcars only (including used trucks and trailers) that bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter "U" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in trailers and/or semitrailers (new or used) that bear the distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in recreational vehicles that bear the distinctive letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER", and one for special license plates. All markings for the various kinds of dealers' plates must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto in the position that the department designates.

(2) All number plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a minimum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be furnished by the state. In years when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate registration numbers that must be affixed to the license plates in use.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number plates as provided in this section, ~~and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after January 17, 1991 to replace, at renewal as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were displayed on motor vehicles before~~

1 that-date.

2 (4) In the case of motorcars and trucks, plates must be
3 of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. The outline
4 of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border
5 on such the license plates, and the word "Montana" and the
6 year must be placed across the plates. Such-registration
7 Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized
8 background material according to specifications prescribed
9 by the department.

10 (5) The distinctive registration numbers must begin
11 with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such
12 as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of
13 letters and numbers. The distinctive registration number or
14 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must
15 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and
16 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal
17 baseline. The county number must be separated from the
18 distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless
19 a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such
20 numerals and letters must be determined by the department,
21 and all county and registration numbers must be of equal
22 height.

23 (6) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in
24 addition to the markings provided in this section, number
25 plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

1 (a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may
2 designate the prefix number for the various state
3 departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments
4 must bear the words "State Owned", and no a year number may
5 not be indicated thereon on the plates because these
6 numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be
7 replaced by the department only when the physical condition
8 of numbered plates requires it.

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

permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of the number plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the number plates.

(7) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and tax-exempt trailers, there must appear the letter "T" or the word "TRUCK" on plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR" or the word "TRAILER" on plates assigned to trailers and house trailers. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" must appear on plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type.

(8) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck, trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle or quadricycle type may be transferred only to a replacement passenger car, truck, trailer, or motorcycle- or quadricycle-type vehicle. No A registration or license fee may not be assessed upon a transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

(9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows: Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4; Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8; Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12; Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt, 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big

Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera, 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30; Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34; Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38; Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42; Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46; Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson, 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum, 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers by the department as they may be formed, beginning with the number 57.

(10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in 61-3-463, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle. The special license plates must be issued to national guard members, former prisoners of war, handicapped persons, reservists,

disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack, veterans of the armed services, or veterans of the armed services who were awarded the purple heart medal, active or retired firefighters, or ambulance personnel OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who comply with the following provisions:

(a) An active member of the Montana national guard may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall issue to each active member of the Montana national guard a certificate authorizing the department to issue one set of national guard plates, and the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the United States of America who is a resident of this state may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the following: United States army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); and United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding officer of each armed forces reserve unit shall issue to each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate authorizing the issuance of one set of plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming

ineligible to use them.

(c) A resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and who is 100% disabled because of an injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be service-connected may, upon presentation to the department of proof of the 100% disability, be issued a special license plate under this section with a design or decal displaying the letters "DV".

(i) The fee for original or renewal registration by a 100% disabled veteran for a passenger vehicle or a truck with a GVW-rated capacity of 1 ton or less is \$5 and is in lieu of all other fees and taxes for that vehicle under this chapter.

(ii) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran are not transferable to another person.

(iii) A disabled veteran is not entitled to a special license plate for more than one vehicle.

(iv) A vehicle lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's plate and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is entitled to the parking privileges allowed a handicapped person's vehicle under this title.

(d) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and was captured and held prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented by his the veteran's service record, may upon application

1 and presentation of proof be issued a special license plate
2 with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of
3 war" or an abbreviation the department considers
4 appropriate.

5 (e) Upon payment of all taxes and fees required by
6 parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof
7 satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets the
8 requirements of this subsection (e), the department shall
9 issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
10 services of the United States special license plates, for
11 one motor vehicle only, designed to indicate that the
12 applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the
13 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on
14 December 7, 1941, was on station on December 7, 1941, during
15 the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl
16 Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance of not
17 more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from
18 the United States armed forces. If special license plates
19 issued under this subsection are lost, stolen, or mutilated,
20 the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement
21 plates upon request and without charge.

22 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state
23 who is a veteran of the armed services of the United States
24 may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in
25 subsection (10)(f)(i) if he the person was separated from

1 the armed services under other than dishonorable
2 circumstances or was awarded the purple heart medal:

3 (i) Upon submission of proof, in a form prescribed by
4 the department, of his the person's qualification under this
5 subsection, there must be issued to each applicant, in lieu
6 of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special
7 license plates numbered in sets of two with a different
8 number on each set. The plates must display:

9 (A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the
10 United States army, United States navy, United States air
11 force, United States marine corps, or United States coast
12 guard, according to the record of service verified in the
13 application; or

14 (B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal.

15 (ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the
16 county treasurer, who shall issue them to qualified
17 veterans. The plates must be placed or mounted on the
18 vehicle owned by the veteran designated in the application
19 and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the
20 vehicle.

21 (iii) Each veteran who receives special license plates
22 under this subsection (10)(f) is liable for payment of all
23 taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter
24 and a special veteran's or purple heart medal license plate
25 fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license under

1 this subsection (10)(f), the county treasurer shall:

2 (A) deposit \$3 of the special fee in the county general
3 fund;

4 (B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

5 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
6 state special revenue fund to the credit of the department
7 of military affairs to be appropriated by the legislature
8 for construction, operation, and maintenance of the state
9 veterans' cemetery.

10 (iv) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the
11 county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
12 provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii)(C).

13 (g) (i) An active or--retired member of a local
14 firefighter force who is a resident of this state may be
15 issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with
16 a different number on each set. The plates must display a
17 design or decal of the symbol of the Maltese cross and--the
18 term--"retired"--if-the-firefighter-is-retired. The chief of
19 the local firefighter force shall issue to each eligible
20 member of the force a certificate authorizing the issuance
21 of special license plates. The member shall surrender the
22 plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use
23 them.

24 (ii) Each firefighter who receives special license
25 plates under subsection (10)(g)(i) is liable for payment of

1 all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this
2 chapter and a special fire service license plate fee of \$10
3 \$15.50. Upon an original application for a license under
4 this subsection (10)(g), the county treasurer shall:

5 (A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general
6 fund;

7 (B) remit \$1 \$6.50 for deposit in the state general
8 fund; and

9 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
10 state special revenue fund to the credit of the fire
11 services training school to be appropriated by the
12 legislature for additional training, training aids, and
13 higher education for firefighters.

14 (iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration,
15 the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
16 provided in subsection (10)(g)(ii)(C).

17 (h) (i) An active or--retired member of an ambulance
18 EMERGENCY MEDICAL service LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who is a
19 resident of the state may be issued special license plates,
20 numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set.
21 The plates must display a design or decal of the symbol--of
22 the--star--of--life--and-the-term--"retired"--if-the-person-is
23 retired MONTANA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM LOGO. The
24 OWNER, DIRECTOR, OR board of directors of each ambulance
25 LICENSED service shall issue to each eligible member of the

ambulance service a certificate authorizing the issuance of special license plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(ii) Each member of an-ambulance A LICENSED service who receives special license plates under subsection (10)(h)(i) is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special ambulance EMERGENCY MEDICAL service license plate fee of \$10 \$15.50. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(h), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$1 \$6.50 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of health and environmental sciences to be appropriated by the legislature for additional training, training aids, and higher education for ambulance personnel OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306.

(iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(h)(ii)(C).

{g}(i) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a

special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of the handicapped person. (Terminates July 1, 1996--sec. 4, Ch. 654, L. 1989.)

61-3-332. (Effective July 1, 1996) Number plates. (1) A motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of Montana must display both front and rear number plates, bearing the distinctive number assigned the vehicle. The number plates are in 10 series: one series for owners of motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type, one for trailers, one for trucks, one for dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type that bear the distinctive letters "MCD" or the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER", one for franchised dealers in new motorcars (including trucks and trailers) or new and used motorcars (including trucks and trailers) that bear the distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one for dealers in used motorcars only (including used trucks and trailers) that bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the letter "U" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in trailers and/or semitrailers (new or used) that bear the distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in recreational vehicles that bear

the distinctive letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER", and one for special license plates. All markings for the various kinds of dealers' plates must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto in the position that the department designates.

(2) All number plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a minimum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be furnished by the state. In years when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate registration numbers that must be affixed to the license plates in use.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number plates as provided in this section; ~~and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after January 1, 1991, to replace at renewal as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were displayed on motor vehicles before that date.~~

(4) In the case of motorcars and trucks, number plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. For number plates issued after 1976, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on ~~such~~ the license plates, and the word "Montana" and the year must be placed across the bottom of the plates. ~~Such registration~~ Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized

background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.

(5) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers and be numbered consecutively for each series of plates. The distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

(6) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in addition to the markings in this section provided, number plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

(a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and no a year number may not be indicated thereon on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be

replaced by the department only when the physical condition of numbered plates requires it.

(b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties, municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school districts and that are used and operated by officials and employees thereof in line of duty and for vehicles on loan from the United States government or the state of Montana to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty, there must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto, in a position that the department may designate, the letter "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the counties in the state and those of the municipalities and school districts situated within each of the counties and those of the irrigation districts that obtain plates within each county must begin with number one and be numbered consecutively. Because these number plates are of a permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the department only when the physical condition of the number plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on the number plates.

(7) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and

tax-exempt trailers, there must appear the letter "T" or the word "TRUCK" on plates assigned to trucks and the letters "TR" or the word "TRAILER" on plates assigned to trailers and housetrailer. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" must appear on plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle or quadricycle type.

(8) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck, trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle or quadricycle type may be transferred only to a replacement passenger car, truck, trailer, or motorcycle- or quadricycle-type vehicle. No A registration or license fee may not be assessed upon a transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

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

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

(10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in 61-3-463, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle. The special license plates must be issued to national guard members, former prisoners of war, handicapped persons, reservists, disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack, veterans of the armed services, or veterans of the armed services who were awarded the purple heart medal, active or retired firefighters, or ambulance personnel OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who comply with the following provisions:

(a) An active member of the Montana national guard may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall issue to each active member of the Montana national guard a certificate authorizing the department to issue one set of national guard plates, and the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the United States of America who is a resident of this state may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the following: United States army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); and United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding officer of each armed forces reserve unit shall issue to each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate authorizing the issuance of one set of plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(c) A resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and who is 100% disabled because of an injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be service-connected may, upon presentation to the department of proof of the 100%

1 disability, be issued a special license plate under this
2 section with a design or decal displaying the letters "DV".

3 (i) The fee for original or renewal registration by a
4 100% disabled veteran for a passenger vehicle or a truck
5 with a GVW-rated capacity of 1 ton or less is \$5 and is in
6 lieu of all other fees and taxes for that vehicle under this
7 chapter.

8 (ii) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran
9 are not transferable to another person.

10 (iii) A disabled veteran is not entitled to a special
11 license plate for more than one vehicle.

12 (iv) A vehicle lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's
13 plate and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is
14 entitled to the parking privileges allowed a handicapped
15 person's vehicle under this title.

16 (d) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
17 forces of the United States and was captured and held
18 prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented
19 by his the veteran's service record, may upon application
20 and presentation of proof be issued a special license plate
21 with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of
22 war" or an abbreviation the department considers
23 appropriate.

24 (e) Upon payment of all taxes and fees required by
25 parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof

1 satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets the
2 requirements of this subsection (e), the department shall
3 issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
4 services of the United States special license plates, for
5 one motor vehicle only, designed to indicate that the
6 applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the
7 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on
8 December 7, 1941, was on station on December 7, 1941, during
9 the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl
10 Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance of not
11 more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from
12 the United States armed forces. If special license plates
13 issued under this subsection are lost, stolen, or mutilated,
14 the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement
15 plates upon request and without charge.

16 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state
17 who is a veteran of the armed services of the United States
18 may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in
19 subsection (10)(f)(i) if he the person was separated from
20 the armed services under other than dishonorable
21 circumstances or was awarded the purple heart medal:

22 (i) Upon submission of proof, in a form prescribed by
23 the department, of his the person's qualification under this
24 subsection, there must be issued to each applicant, in lieu
25 of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special

license plates numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The plates must display:

(A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the United States army, United States navy, United States air force, United States marine corps, or United States coast guard, according to the record of service verified in the application; or

(B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal.

(ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the county treasurer, who shall issue them to qualified veterans. The plates must be placed or mounted on the vehicle owned by the veteran designated in the application and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle.

(iii) Each veteran who receives special license plates under this subsection (10)(f) is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special veteran's or purple heart medal license plate fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(f), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$3 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department

of military affairs to be appropriated by the legislature for construction, operation, and maintenance of the state veterans' cemetery.

(iv) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii)(C).

(g) (i) An active or--retired member of a local firefighter force who is a resident of this state may be issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The plates must display a design or decal of the symbol of the Maltese cross and--the term--"retired"--if-the-firefighter-is-retired. The chief of the local firefighter force shall issue to each eligible member of the force a certificate authorizing the issuance of special license plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(ii) Each firefighter who receives special license plates under subsection (10)(g)(i) is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special fire service license plate fee of \$10 \$15.50. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(g), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$1 \$6.50 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the fire services training school to be appropriated by the legislature for additional training, training aids, and higher education for firefighters.

(iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(g)(ii)(C).

(h) (i) An active or--retired member of an ambulance EMERGENCY MEDICAL service LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who is a resident of this state may be issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The plates must display a design or decal of the symbol of the star of life and the term "retired" if the person is retired MONTANA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM LOGO. The OWNER, DIRECTOR, OR board of directors of each ambulance LICENSED service shall issue to each eligible member of the ambulance service a certificate authorizing the issuance of special license plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(ii) Each member of an ambulance A LICENSED service who receives special license plates under subsection (10)(h)(i)

is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special ambulance EMERGENCY MEDICAL service license plate fee of \$10 \$15.50. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(h), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$1 \$6.50 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of health and environmental sciences to be appropriated by the legislature for additional training, training aids, and higher education for ambulance personnel OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306.

(iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(h)(ii)(C).

(g)(i) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of the handicapped person."

Section 2. Section 61-3-446, MCA, is amended to read:

1 "61-3-446. Retention of special license plates. If
2 during a registration year the holder of special license
3 plates issued under 61-3-332(10)(b) through ~~(10)(f)~~ (10)(h)
4 disposes of the vehicle to which the plates are affixed, ~~he~~
5 the holder shall retain the plates and may affix them to
6 another vehicle."

7 NEW SECTION. **Section 3.** Effective date. [This act] is
8 effective January 1, 1994.

-End-

1 SENATE BILL NO. 56

2 INTRODUCED BY VAUGHN

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING SPECIAL
5 LICENSE PLATES FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE PERSONNEL OF A
6 LICENSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE; ALLOCATING PART OF THE
7 LICENSE FEES TO THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AND, PART
8 OF THE LICENSE FEES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
9 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, AND PART OF THE LICENSE FEES TO THE
10 STATE GENERAL FUND; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-3-332 AND 61-3-446,
11 MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

12
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

14 Section 1. Section 61-3-332, MCA, is amended to read:

15 "61-3-332. (Temporary) Number plates. (1) A motor
16 vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of
17 Montana must display both front and rear number plates,
18 bearing the distinctive number assigned the vehicle. The
19 number plates are in 10 series: one series for owners of
20 motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the
21 motorcycle or quadricycle type, one for trailers, one for
22 trucks, one for dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle or
23 quadricycle type that bear the distinctive letters "MCD" or
24 the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER", one for franchised
25 dealers in new motorcars (including trucks and trailers) or

1 new and used motorcars (including trucks and trailers) that
2 bear the distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one
3 for dealers in used motorcars only (including used trucks
4 and trailers) that bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the
5 letter "U" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in
6 trailers and/or semitrailers (new or used) that bear the
7 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word
8 "DEALER", one for dealers in recreational vehicles that bear
9 the distinctive letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word
10 "DEALER", and one for special license plates. All markings
11 for the various kinds of dealers' plates must be placed on
12 the number plates assigned thereto in the position that the
13 department designates.

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

20 (3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the
21 department shall create a new design for number plates as
22 provided in this section, and it shall manufacture the newly
23 designed number plates for issuance after January 1, 1991,
24 to replace, at renewal as required in 61-3-332 and 61-3-314,
25 number plates that were displayed on motor vehicles before

1 that-date.

2 (4) In the case of motorcars and trucks, plates must be
3 of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. The outline
4 of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border
5 on such the license plates, and the word "Montana" and the
6 year must be placed across the plates. Such-registration
7 Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized
8 background material according to specifications prescribed
9 by the department.

10 (5) The distinctive registration numbers must begin
11 with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such
12 as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of
13 letters and numbers. The distinctive registration number or
14 letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must
15 appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and
16 appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal
17 baseline. The county number must be separated from the
18 distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless
19 a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such
20 numerals and letters must be determined by the department,
21 and all county and registration numbers must be of equal
22 height.

23 (6) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in
24 addition to the markings provided in this section, number
25 plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

1 (a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may
2 designate the prefix number for the various state
3 departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments
4 must bear the words "State Owned", and no a year number may
5 not be indicated thereon on the plates because these
6 numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be
7 replaced by the department only when the physical condition
8 of numbered plates requires it.

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

1 permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the
2 department only when the physical condition of the number
3 plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on
4 the number plates.

5 (7) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of
6 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and
7 tax-exempt trailers, there must appear the letter "T" or the
8 word "TRUCK" on plates assigned to trucks and the letters
9 "TR" or the word "TRAILER" on plates assigned to trailers
10 and housetrailer. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" must
11 appear on plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle or
12 quadricycle type.

13 (8) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck,
14 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle or quadricycle type
15 may be transferred only to a replacement passenger car,
16 truck, trailer, or motorcycle- or quadricycle-type vehicle.
17 No A registration or license fee may not be assessed upon a
18 transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

19 (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several
20 counties of the state are assigned numbers as follows:
21 Silver Bow, 1; Cascade, 2; Yellowstone, 3; Missoula, 4;
22 Lewis and Clark, 5; Gallatin, 6; Flathead, 7; Fergus, 8;
23 Powder River, 9; Carbon, 10; Phillips, 11; Hill, 12;
24 Ravalli, 13; Custer, 14; Lake, 15; Dawson, 16; Roosevelt,
25 17; Beaverhead, 18; Chouteau, 19; Valley, 20; Toole, 21; Big

1 Horn, 22; Musselshell, 23; Blaine, 24; Madison, 25; Pondera,
2 26; Richland, 27; Powell, 28; Rosebud, 29; Deer Lodge, 30;
3 Teton, 31; Stillwater, 32; Treasure, 33; Sheridan, 34;
4 Sanders, 35; Judith Basin, 36; Daniels, 37; Glacier, 38;
5 Fallon, 39; Sweet Grass, 40; McCone, 41; Carter, 42;
6 Broadwater, 43; Wheatland, 44; Prairie, 45; Granite, 46;
7 Meagher, 47; Liberty, 48; Park, 49; Garfield, 50; Jefferson,
8 51; Wibaux, 52; Golden Valley, 53; Mineral, 54; Petroleum,
9 55; Lincoln, 56. Any new counties must be assigned numbers
10 by the department as they may be formed, beginning with the
11 number 57.

12 (10) Each type of special license plate approved by the
13 legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in
14 61-3-463, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as
15 provided in subsection (5), except that the county number
16 must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal
17 designating the group or organization to which the applicant
18 belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this
19 section, the special plates are subject to the same rules
20 and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates,
21 must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the person
22 who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon
23 sale or other disposition of the vehicle. The special
24 license plates must be issued to national guard members,
25 former prisoners of war, handicapped persons, reservists,

1 disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack,
 2 veterans of the armed services, or veterans of the armed
 3 services who were awarded the purple heart medal, active or
 4 retired firefighters, or ambulance personnel OF AN EMERGENCY
 5 MEDICAL SERVICE LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who comply with the
 6 following provisions:

7 (a) An active member of the Montana national guard may
 8 be issued a special license plate with a design or decal
 9 displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall
 10 issue to each active member of the Montana national guard a
 11 certificate authorizing the department to issue one set of
 12 national guard plates, and the member shall surrender the
 13 plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use
 14 them.

15 (b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the
 16 United States of America who is a resident of this state may
 17 be issued a special license plate with a design or decal
 18 displaying the following: United States army reserve, AR
 19 (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United
 20 States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); and United States
 21 marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding
 22 officer of each armed forces reserve unit shall issue to
 23 each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate
 24 authorizing the issuance of one set of plates. The member
 25 shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming

1 ineligible to use them.

2 (c) A resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed
 3 forces of the United States and who is 100% disabled because
 4 of an injury that has been determined by the department of
 5 veterans affairs to be service-connected may, upon
 6 presentation to the department of proof of the 100%
 7 disability, be issued a special license plate under this
 8 section with a design or decal displaying the letters "DV".

9 (i) The fee for original or renewal registration by a
 10 100% disabled veteran for a passenger vehicle or a truck
 11 with a GVW-rated capacity of 1 ton or less is \$5 and is in
 12 lieu of all other fees and taxes for that vehicle under this
 13 chapter.

14 (ii) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran
 15 are not transferable to another person.

16 (iii) A disabled veteran is not entitled to a special
 17 license plate for more than one vehicle.

18 (iv) A vehicle lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's
 19 plate and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is
 20 entitled to the parking privileges allowed a handicapped
 21 person's vehicle under this title.

22 (d) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
 23 forces of the United States and was captured and held
 24 prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented
 25 by his the veteran's service record, may upon application

1 and presentation of proof be issued a special license plate
2 with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of
3 war" or an abbreviation the department considers
4 appropriate.

5 (e) Upon payment of all taxes and fees required by
6 parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof
7 satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets the
8 requirements of this subsection (e), the department shall
9 issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
10 services of the United States special license plates, for
11 one motor vehicle only, designed to indicate that the
12 applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the
13 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on
14 December 7, 1941, was on station on December 7, 1941, during
15 the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl
16 Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance of not
17 more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from
18 the United States armed forces. If special license plates
19 issued under this subsection are lost, stolen, or mutilated,
20 the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement
21 plates upon request and without charge.

22 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state
23 who is a veteran of the armed services of the United States
24 may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in
25 subsection (10)(f)(i) if he the person was separated from

1 the armed services under other than dishonorable
2 circumstances or was awarded the purple heart medal:

3 (i) Upon submission of proof, in a form prescribed by
4 the department, of his the person's qualification under this
5 subsection, there must be issued to each applicant, in lieu
6 of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special
7 license plates numbered in sets of two with a different
8 number on each set. The plates must display:

9 (A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the
10 United States army, United States navy, United States air
11 force, United States marine corps, or United States coast
12 guard, according to the record of service verified in the
13 application; or

14 (B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal.

15 (ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the
16 county treasurer, who shall issue them to qualified
17 veterans. The plates must be placed or mounted on the
18 vehicle owned by the veteran designated in the application
19 and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the
20 vehicle.

21 (iii) Each veteran who receives special license plates
22 under this subsection (10)(f) is liable for payment of all
23 taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter
24 and a special veteran's or purple heart medal license plate
25 fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license under

1 this subsection (10)(f), the county treasurer shall:

2 (A) deposit \$3 of the special fee in the county general
3 fund;

4 (B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

5 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
6 state special revenue fund to the credit of the department
7 of military affairs to be appropriated by the legislature
8 for construction, operation, and maintenance of the state
9 veterans' cemetery.

10 (iv) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the
11 county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
12 provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii)(C).

13 (g) (i) An active or--retired member of a local
14 firefighter force who is a resident of this state may be
15 issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with
16 a different number on each set. The plates must display a
17 design or decal of the symbol of the Maltese cross and--the
18 term--"retired"--if-the-firefighter-is-retired. The chief of
19 the local firefighter force shall issue to each eligible
20 member of the force a certificate authorizing the issuance
21 of special license plates. The member shall surrender the
22 plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use
23 them.

24 (ii) Each firefighter who receives special license
25 plates under subsection (10)(g)(i) is liable for payment of

1 all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this
2 chapter and a special fire service license plate fee of \$10
3 \$15.50. Upon an original application for a license under
4 this subsection (10)(g), the county treasurer shall:

5 (A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general
6 fund;

7 (B) remit \$1 \$6.50 for deposit in the state general
8 fund; and

9 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
10 state special revenue fund to the credit of the fire
11 services training school to be appropriated by the
12 legislature for additional training, training aids, and
13 higher education for firefighters.

14 (iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration,
15 the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
16 provided in subsection (10)(g)(ii)(C).

17 (h) (i) An active or--retired member of an ambulance
18 EMERGENCY MEDICAL service LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who is a
19 resident of the state may be issued special license plates,
20 numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set.
21 The plates must display a design or decal of the symbol--of
22 the--star--of--life--and-the-term--"retired"--if-the-person-is
23 retired MONTANA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM LOGO. The
24 OWNER, DIRECTOR, OR board of directors of each ambulance
25 LICENSED service shall issue to each eligible member of the

1 ambulance service a certificate authorizing the issuance of
 2 special license plates. The member shall surrender the
 3 plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use
 4 them.

5 (ii) Each member of an-ambulance A LICENSED service who
 6 receives special license plates under subsection (10)(h)(i)
 7 is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under
 8 parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special ambulance
 9 EMERGENCY MEDICAL service license plate fee of \$10 \$15.50.
 10 Upon an original application for a license under this
 11 subsection (10)(h), the county treasurer shall:

12 (A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general
 13 fund;

14 (B) remit \$1 \$6.50 for deposit in the state general
 15 fund; and

16 (C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the
 17 state special revenue fund to the credit of the department
 18 of health and environmental sciences to be appropriated by
 19 the legislature for additional training, training aids, and
 20 higher education for ambulance personnel OF EMERGENCY
 21 MEDICAL SERVICES LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306.

22 (iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration,
 23 the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as
 24 provided in subsection (10)(h)(ii)(C).

25 (g)(i) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a

1 special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written
 2 application on a form prescribed by the department, be
 3 issued a special license plate with a design or decal
 4 bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of
 5 the handicapped person. (Terminates July 1, 1996--sec. 4,
 6 Ch. 654, L. 1989.)

7 61-3-332. (Effective July 1, 1996) Number plates. (1) A
 8 motor vehicle that is driven upon the streets or highways of
 9 Montana must display both front and rear number plates,
 10 bearing the distinctive number assigned the vehicle. The
 11 number plates are in 10 series: one series for owners of
 12 motorcars, one for owners of motor vehicles of the
 13 motorcycle or quadricycle type, one for trailers, one for
 14 trucks, one for dealers in vehicles of the motorcycle or
 15 quadricycle type that bear the distinctive letters "MCD" or
 16 the letters "MC" and the word "DEALER", one for franchised
 17 dealers in new motorcars (including trucks and trailers) or
 18 new and used motorcars (including trucks and trailers) that
 19 bear the distinctive letter "D" or the word "DEALER", one
 20 for dealers in used motorcars only (including used trucks
 21 and trailers) that bear the distinctive letters "UD" or the
 22 letter "U" and the word "DEALER", one for dealers in
 23 trailers and/or semitrailers (new or used) that bear the
 24 distinctive letters "DTR" or the letters "TR" and the word
 25 "DEALER", one for dealers in recreational vehicles that bear

the distinctive letters "RV" or the letter "R" and the word "DEALER", and one for special license plates. All markings for the various kinds of dealers' plates must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto in the position that the department designates.

(2) All number plates for motor vehicles must be issued for a minimum period of 4 years, bear a distinctive marking, and be furnished by the state. In years when number plates are not issued, the department shall provide nonremovable stickers bearing appropriate registration numbers that must be affixed to the license plates in use.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall create a new design for number plates as provided in this section, ~~and it shall manufacture the newly designed number plates for issuance after January 1, 1991, to replace, at renewal as required in 61-3-312 and 61-3-314, number plates that were displayed on motor vehicles before that date.~~

(4) In the case of motorcars and trucks, number plates must be of metal 6 inches wide and 12 inches in length. For number plates issued after 1976, the outline of the state of Montana must be used as a distinctive border on such the license plates, and the word "Montana" and the year must be placed across the bottom of the plates. Such ~~registration~~ Registration plates must be treated with a reflectorized

background material according to specifications prescribed by the department.

(5) The distinctive registration numbers must begin with a number one or with a letter-number combination, such as "A 1" or "AA 1", or any other similar combination of letters and numbers and be numbered consecutively for each series of plates. The distinctive registration number or letter-number combination assigned to the vehicle must appear on the plate preceded by the number of the county and appearing in horizontal order on the same horizontal baseline. The county number must be separated from the distinctive registration number by a separation mark unless a letter-number combination is used. The dimensions of such numerals and letters must be determined by the department, and all county and registration numbers must be of equal height.

(6) For the use of tax-exempt motor vehicles, in addition to the markings in this section provided, number plates must bear the following distinctive markings:

(a) For vehicles owned by the state, the department may designate the prefix number for the various state departments. All numbered plates issued to state departments must bear the words "State Owned", and no a year number may not be indicated thereon on the plates because these numbered plates are of a permanent nature and will be

1 replaced by the department only when the physical condition
2 of numbered plates requires it.

3 (b) For vehicles that are owned by the counties,
4 municipalities, irrigation districts organized under the
5 laws of Montana and not operating for profit, and school
6 districts and that are used and operated by officials and
7 employees thereof in line of duty and for vehicles on loan
8 from the United States government or the state of Montana
9 to, or owned by, the civil air patrol and used and operated
10 by officials and employees thereof in the line of duty,
11 there must be placed on the number plates assigned thereto,
12 in a position that the department may designate, the letter
13 "X" or the word "EXEMPT". Distinctive registration numbers
14 for plates assigned to motor vehicles of each of the
15 counties in the state and those of the municipalities and
16 school districts situated within each of the counties and
17 those of the irrigation districts that obtain plates within
18 each county must begin with number one and be numbered
19 consecutively. Because these number plates are of a
20 permanent nature, they are subject to replacement by the
21 department only when the physical condition of the number
22 plates requires it and a year number may not be displayed on
23 the number plates.

24 (7) On all number plates assigned to motor vehicles of
25 the truck and trailer type, other than tax-exempt trucks and

1 tax-exempt trailers, there must appear the letter "T" or the
2 word "TRUCK" on plates assigned to trucks and the letters
3 "TR" or the word "TRAILER" on plates assigned to trailers
4 and housetrailer. The letters "MC" or the word "CYCLE" must
5 appear on plates assigned to vehicles of the motorcycle or
6 quadricycle type.

7 (8) Number plates issued to a passenger car, truck,
8 trailer, or vehicle of the motorcycle or quadricycle type
9 may be transferred only to a replacement passenger car,
10 truck, trailer, or motorcycle- or quadricycle-type vehicle.
11 No A registration or license fee may not be assessed upon a
12 transfer of a number plate under 61-3-317 and 61-3-335.

13 (9) For the purpose of this chapter, the several
14 counties of the state are 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;

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

(10) Each type of special license plate approved by the legislature, except collegiate license plates authorized in 61-3-463, must be a separate series of plates, numbered as provided in subsection (5), except that the county number must be replaced by a nonremovable design or decal designating the group or organization to which the applicant belongs. Unless otherwise specifically stated in this section, the special plates are subject to the same rules and laws as govern the issuance of regular license plates, must be placed or mounted on a vehicle owned by the person who is eligible to receive them, and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle. The special license plates must be issued to national guard members, former prisoners of war, handicapped persons, reservists, disabled veterans, survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack, veterans of the armed services, or veterans of the armed services who were awarded the purple heart medal, active or retired firefighters, or ambulance personnel OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who comply with the following provisions:

(a) An active member of the Montana national guard may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the letters "NG". The adjutant general shall issue to each active member of the Montana national guard a certificate authorizing the department to issue one set of national guard plates, and the member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(b) An active member of the reserve armed forces of the United States of America who is a resident of this state may be issued a special license plate with a design or decal displaying the following: United States army reserve, AR (symbol); United States naval reserve, NR (anchor); United States air force reserve, AFR (symbol); and United States marine corps reserve, MCR (globe and anchor). The commanding officer of each armed forces reserve unit shall issue to each eligible member of the reserve unit a certificate authorizing the issuance of one set of plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(c) A resident of Montana who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and who is 100% disabled because of an injury that has been determined by the department of veterans affairs to be service-connected may, upon presentation to the department of proof of the 100%

1 disability, be issued a special license plate under this
2 section with a design or decal displaying the letters "DV".

3 (i) The fee for original or renewal registration by a
4 100% disabled veteran for a passenger vehicle or a truck
5 with a GVW-rated capacity of 1 ton or less is \$5 and is in
6 lieu of all other fees and taxes for that vehicle under this
7 chapter.

8 (ii) Special license plates issued to a disabled veteran
9 are not transferable to another person.

10 (iii) A disabled veteran is not entitled to a special
11 license plate for more than one vehicle.

12 (iv) A vehicle lawfully displaying a disabled veteran's
13 plate and that is conveying a 100% disabled veteran is
14 entitled to the parking privileges allowed a handicapped
15 person's vehicle under this title.

16 (d) A Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
17 forces of the United States and was captured and held
18 prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation, documented
19 by his the veteran's service record, may upon application
20 and presentation of proof be issued a special license plate
21 with a design or decal displaying the words "ex-prisoner of
22 war" or an abbreviation the department considers
23 appropriate.

24 (e) Upon payment of all taxes and fees required by
25 parts 3 and 5 of this chapter and upon furnishing proof

1 satisfactory to the department that the applicant meets the
2 requirements of this subsection (e), the department shall
3 issue to a Montana resident who is a veteran of the armed
4 services of the United States special license plates, for
5 one motor vehicle only, designed to indicate that the
6 applicant is a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack if the
7 applicant was a member of the United States armed forces on
8 December 7, 1941, was on station on December 7, 1941, during
9 the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii time) at Pearl
10 Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance of not
11 more than 3 miles, and received an honorable discharge from
12 the United States armed forces. If special license plates
13 issued under this subsection are lost, stolen, or mutilated,
14 the recipient of the plates is entitled to replacement
15 plates upon request and without charge.

16 (f) A motor vehicle owner and resident of this state
17 who is a veteran of the armed services of the United States
18 may be issued license plates inscribed as provided in
19 subsection (10)(f)(i) if he the person was separated from
20 the armed services under other than dishonorable
21 circumstances or was awarded the purple heart medal:

22 (i) Upon submission of proof, in a form prescribed by
23 the department, of his the person's qualification under this
24 subsection, there must be issued to each applicant, in lieu
25 of the regular license plates prescribed by law, special

license plates numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The plates must display:

(A) the word "VETERAN" and a symbol signifying the United States army, United States navy, United States air force, United States marine corps, or United States coast guard, according to the record of service verified in the application; or

(B) a symbol representing the purple heart medal.

(ii) Plates must be furnished by the department to the county treasurer, who shall issue them to qualified veterans. The plates must be placed or mounted on the vehicle owned by the veteran designated in the application and must be removed upon sale or other disposition of the vehicle.

(iii) Each veteran who receives special license plates under this subsection (10)(f) is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special veteran's or purple heart medal license plate fee of \$10. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(f), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$3 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$1 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department

of military affairs to be appropriated by the legislature for construction, operation, and maintenance of the state veterans' cemetery.

(iv) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(f)(iii)(C).

(g) (i) An active or--retired member of a local firefighter force who is a resident of this state may be issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The plates must display a design or decal of the symbol of the Maltese cross and--the term--"retired"--if-the-firefighter-is-retired. The chief of the local firefighter force shall issue to each eligible member of the force a certificate authorizing the issuance of special license plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(ii) Each firefighter who receives special license plates under subsection (10)(g)(i) is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special fire service license plate fee of \$10 \$15.50. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(g), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$6.50 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the fire services training school to be appropriated by the legislature for additional training, training aids, and higher education for firefighters.

(iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(g)(ii)(C).

(h) (i) An active or--retired member of an ambulance EMERGENCY MEDICAL service LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306 who is a resident of this state may be issued special license plates, numbered in sets of two with a different number on each set. The plates must display a design or decal of the symbol of the star of life and the term "retired" if the person is retired MONTANA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM LOGO. The OWNER, DIRECTOR, OR board of directors of each ambulance LICENSED service shall issue to each eligible member of the ambulance service a certificate authorizing the issuance of special license plates. The member shall surrender the plates to the department upon becoming ineligible to use them.

(ii) Each member of an ambulance A LICENSED service who receives special license plates under subsection (10)(h)(i)

is liable for payment of all taxes and fees required under parts 3 and 4 of this chapter and a special ambulance EMERGENCY MEDICAL service license plate fee of \$10 \$15.50. Upon an original application for a license under this subsection (10)(h), the county treasurer shall:

(A) deposit \$1 of the special fee in the county general fund;

(B) remit \$6.50 for deposit in the state general fund; and

(C) deposit the remainder of the special fee in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department of health and environmental sciences to be appropriated by the legislature for additional training, training aids, and higher education for ambulance personnel OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LICENSED UNDER 50-6-306.

(iii) Upon subsequent annual renewal of registration, the county treasurer shall deposit all of the special fee as provided in subsection (10)(h)(ii)(C).

(g)(i) A Montana resident who is eligible to receive a special parking permit under 49-4-301 may, upon written application on a form prescribed by the department, be issued a special license plate with a design or decal bearing a representation of a wheelchair as the symbol of the handicapped person."

Section 2. Section 61-3-446, MCA, is amended to read:

1 *61-3-446. Retention of special license plates. If
2 during a registration year the holder of special license
3 plates issued under 61-3-332(10)(b) through ~~(10)(f)~~ (10)(h)
4 disposes of the vehicle to which the plates are affixed, he
5 the holder shall retain the plates and may affix them to
6 another vehicle."

7 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is
8 effective January 1, 1994.

-End-