

Senate Bill 1022

Sponsored by Senator FREDERICK, Representative EVANS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act lowers the number of vouchers and plates that small universities need for ODOT to make and issue car plates that represent the small schools. (Flesch Readability Score: 75.8).

Modifies the special registration plate program. Lowers the threshold amount to start making and continue issuing special registration plates for certain public universities.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to specialty vehicle registration plates; amending ORS 805.222 and 805.225; and prescribing
3 an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 805.222 is amended to read:

6 805.222. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish a special registration program and
7 provide for issuance of special registration plates for nonprofit groups meeting the qualifications for
8 tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for institutions of higher
9 education and for public bodies, as defined in ORS 174.109.

10 (2) Plates issued under this section may be issued to owners of motor vehicles registered under
11 the provisions of ORS 803.420 (6)(a). In addition, the department may adopt rules for issuance of
12 special registration plates issued pursuant to this section for vehicles not registered under ORS
13 803.420 (6)(a).

14 (3) Plates issued under this section may not contain expressions of political opinion or religious
15 belief.

16 (4) Rules adopted under this section shall include, but need not be limited to, rules that:

17 (a) Describe general qualifications to be met by any nonprofit group, institution of higher edu-
18 cation or public body in order to be eligible for plates issued under this section.

19 (b) Specify circumstances under which the department may cease to issue plates under this
20 section.

21 (c) Require each nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body for which plates
22 are issued to file an annual statement on a form designed by the department showing that the group
23 is a nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body and that the nonprofit group,
24 institution of higher education or public body otherwise meets the qualifications imposed for eligi-
25 bility for plates issued under this section. The statement shall include names and addresses of cur-
26 rent directors or officers of the nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body or
27 of other persons authorized to speak for the nonprofit group, institution of higher education or
28 public body on matters affecting plates issued under this section.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (d) Specify the manner in which a nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body
2 may apply for a special registration plate.

3 (5) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, for each set of special registration plates is-
4 sued pursuant to this section, the department shall collect a surcharge of \$40 payable when the
5 plates are issued and upon each subsequent renewal of registration of a vehicle bearing the plates.
6 The department shall distribute the moneys from the surcharge as provided in subsection (8) of this
7 section.

8 (6) The department, in consultation with the nonprofit group, institution of higher education or
9 public body requesting the special registration plate, shall develop a unique design for each plate
10 issued under this section. Any design must comply with requirements described under ORS 803.535.

11 (7) **Except as provided in subsection (8) of this section**, the department shall determine how
12 many sets of plates shall be manufactured for each plate approved under this section. If the de-
13 partment does not issue 2,000 sets of plates for a particular nonprofit group, institution of higher
14 education or public body in any one year, the department shall cease production of those plates.

15 (8) **If the department does not issue 300 sets of plates for the following institutions of**
16 **higher education in any one year, the department shall cease production of those plates:**

17 (a) **Oregon Institute of Technology.**

18 (b) **Western Oregon University.**

19 (c) **Southern Oregon University.**

20 (d) **Eastern Oregon University.**

21 [(8)] (9) Each nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body that is found by the
22 department to be eligible for plates issued under this section may designate an account into which
23 the net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department under subsection (5) of this section
24 are to be deposited. The department shall keep accurate records of the number of plates issued for
25 each nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body that qualifies. After payment
26 of administrative expenses of the department, moneys collected under this section for a nonprofit
27 group, institution of higher education or public body shall be deposited by the department into an
28 account specified by that nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body. If any
29 nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body does not specify an account for the
30 moneys collected from the sale of plates issued under this section, the department shall deposit
31 moneys collected for those plates into the Passenger Rail Transportation Account established under
32 ORS 802.100 to be used as other moneys in the account are used. Deposits under this subsection
33 shall be made at least quarterly.

34 **SECTION 2.** ORS 805.225 is amended to read:

35 805.225. (1) A nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body, as defined in ORS
36 174.109, that requests issuance of a special registration plate under ORS 805.222 shall:

37 (a) Submit an application, in the manner prescribed by the Department of Transportation by
38 rule.

39 (b) Pay to the department the anticipated costs of adding the plate to the special registration
40 plate program, as determined by the department. The department shall refund any amount of the
41 payment that is not needed to pay the costs of adding the plate to the program.

42 [(c) *Collect and hold prepaid vouchers for new special registration plates, until it has received at*
43 *least 3,000 vouchers along with required fees.*]

44 (c) **Collect and hold prepaid vouchers for new special registration plates, until it has re-**
45 **ceived the required fees and at least:**

1 **(A) For the following institutions of higher education, 500 vouchers:**

2 **(i) Oregon Institute of Technology.**

3 **(ii) Western Oregon University.**

4 **(iii) Southern Oregon University.**

5 **(iv) Eastern Oregon University.**

6 **(B) For all other applicants, 3,000 vouchers.**

7 **(2)** Once a participating nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body has re-
8 ceived [*at least 3,000*] **the required number** vouchers, it shall submit the vouchers, along with the
9 required fees, to the department.

10 [(2)] **(3)** The department shall begin designing, producing and issuing the plates after the
11 nonprofit group, institution of higher education or public body submits the following:

12 (a) The application;

13 (b) Payment for the anticipated costs of adding the plate as determined under subsection (1) of
14 this section; and

15 (c) Three thousand prepaid vouchers along with required fees.

16 [(3)] **(4)** For purposes of this section, costs of adding a new special registration plate include,
17 but are not limited to, computer programming costs and vendor set-up fees.

18 [(4)] **(5)** The department shall adopt rules for the administration and implementation of the spe-
19 cial registration plate program.

20 **SECTION 3. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025**
21 **regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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