



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone 517/373-6466

SPECIAL ORGANIZATION LICENSE PLATES

1989

House Bill 4680
Sponsor: Rep. Gary L. Randall
Committee: Transportation

Complete to 4-28-89

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4680 AS INTRODUCED 4-20-89

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to permit the secretary of state to issue up to two "special organization" motor vehicle license plates to an applicant for use on a passenger, non-commercial vehicle instead of standard plates. A special registration plate would bear on its face the symbol or emblem of an organization, and letters and numbers as prescribed by the secretary of state. The plates could contain the symbol of the organization to the left of the plate number and the name of the organization above the plate number. The secretary of state could not issue a letter combination that carried a connotation offensive to "good taste and decency." The plates would be made of the same material as standard plates and could not be a duplication of another registration plate.

Requirements to qualify for plates. In order to qualify its members to receive the special plates, an organization would have to:

- be a nonprofit fraternal or public service organization;
- certify it consisted of at least 500 members and that at least this many of its members would apply for the special plates;
- have a recognizable state, national, or international symbol or emblem; and
- submit a service fee of \$250 for the initial manufacture of the symbols or emblems for the plates.

If an organization met these criteria it could request the secretary of state to manufacture special plates for its members. Such a request would be accompanied by all the following:

- a copy of the organization's charter and bylaws, if any;
- a statement of the organization's consent to use of its symbol or emblem on the plates, signed by the chief executive officer of the organization;
- a sample of the organization's symbol or emblem; and
- the name of the organization's representative serving as a contact person with the secretary of state.

Application procedures, fees. A member of an organization that met the bill's requirements would have to individually apply for the plate and submit with the application the organization's confirmation of membership on a form provided by the secretary of state. The application would be submitted according to application procedures for standard plates. In addition to the regular registration fee (which is currently based on a vehicle's weight for pre-1984 vehicles, or value after this date), each application for a new special plate would be accompanied by a service fee of \$25. This fee, however, could not be charged in connection with an application for a renewal tab for an existing special plate. For each application for a duplicate or replacement set of special organization plates, an applicant would have to pay a \$10 fee. Special plates would expire in the same way as standard plates.

House Bill 4680 (4-28-89)

Service fees collected under the bill would be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the Michigan Transportation Fund. After deducting manufacturing and administrative costs, revenues from fees would be allocated to various state and local government transportation agencies pursuant to the distribution formula established in the fund.

Temporary permit. The secretary of state could issue a temporary registration permit to a person who submitted an application and the proper fees for a special plate if the applicant's current vehicle registration would expire before his or her receipt of the special plate. The temporary registration would expire on the applicant's receipt of the special plate or upon the expiration of 60 days after the date of issuance, whichever occurred first. A temporary permit would be issued without charge.

MCL 257.803i