

Senate Bill 95, version B **Sponsor Statement**

“An Act relating to special request specialty organization registration plates; and providing for an effective date.”

Nearly every year, the Legislature spends a portion of its limited time considering specialty license plates for various organizations and non-profits who request them, and the Department of Administration spends its valuable time responding to those pieces of legislation. As of now, there are at least 42 license plates with roughly 90 variations that can be purchased at the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Since 2003, the Legislature has passed nine bills that authorize specialty license plates. In some cases, multiple pieces of specialty plate legislation were rolled into one bill. For example, in the 27th Legislature, four bills were rolled into one bill that authorized six different plates. In other instances, the Legislature discussed the same license plate option for years before either approving or denying the plate.

This bill intends to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty as peace officers. This bill adds a subsection to the Alaska statutes which authorizes the creation and issuance of license plates commemorating these peace officers. This bill includes not just police officers, but all peace officers such as state troopers, municipal police officers, village public safety officers, and officers of the courts.

Senate Bill 95 was introduced to remove the Legislature from approving specialty plates, redirecting that time to bigger issues of statewide significance. Under this legislation, responsibility would be turned over to the DMV, streamlining the process for both the legislature and the DMV.

The division would adopt regulations to allow for issuance of specialty plates sponsored by tax-exempt organizations based within the state, departments of the state, or a municipality within the state. Those entities would also be responsible for paying for the costs associated with development and issuance of the plate.

This bill would reduce State expenses and be a timesaving measure for the Legislature by allowing the DMV to review specialty plate requests.