

**HB**

**293**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 293</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
293</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA28</COMM></TARGET>





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(2) [(4)] the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued;

(3) [(5)] the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; and

(4) [(6)] the registration year number or expiration date for which time it is validated; the registration year number or expiration date may be part of the license plate or contained on a suitable sticker or tab device issued by the department; however, only one sticker or tab device may be issued for each pair of plates, and the sticker or tab device must be affixed to the rear plate.

\* Sec. 2. AS 28.10.161(c) is amended to read:

(c) The department may not adopt a new or altered passenger vehicle registration plate, except as specifically provided in AS 28.10.181, unless it substantially embodies the specifications of this section.

\* Sec. 3. AS 28.10.161 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) The department shall produce registration plates in both of the designs described in (b)(1) of this section. Upon registering a passenger vehicle, the owner shall select the plate design described in (b)(1) of this section that is to be issued by the department for the vehicle.

\* Sec. 4. AS 28.10.181(z) is amended to read:

(z) Special request ~~active~~ firefighter and emergency medical service provider plates ~~and retired [FORMER] firefighter and emergency medical service provider plates.~~ On application by the owner of a motor vehicle, the department may issue registration plates for ~~active~~ firefighters and emergency medical service providers ~~and registration plates for [retired] [FORMER] firefighters and emergency medical service providers.~~ The commissioner shall determine the design and color of the plates. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration. To be eligible for

(1) ~~an active~~ firefighter and emergency medical service provider plate, a person ~~must~~ present satisfactory proof that the person is an active member of

*shall* (A) a fire department in this state and the fire department is recognized as a fire department by the state fire marshal; or

*8227  
150 ACS DN  
From pg 2  
Line 18 to pg 3  
Line 9*

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(B) an out-of-hospital emergency medical service certified by the Department of Health and Social Services; <sup>Dr</sup>

<sup>Who</sup> (2) a retired [FORMER] firefighter <sup>or</sup> and emergency medical service provider, ~~plate, a person must present satisfactory proof that the person was an active member of~~

(A) a fire department in this state for a minimum of 10 <sup>5</sup> years;

or

(B) an out-of-hospital emergency medical service certified by the Department of Health and Social Services for a minimum of 10 <sup>5</sup> years.

\* **Sec. 5.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(ii) Special request specialty organization plates. The department shall adopt regulations to allow for the issuance of special request specialty organization registration plates sponsored by an organization that is based in this state and is tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c), is an Alaska chapter of a national organization that is tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c), is a department of the state, or is a municipality of the state. The department shall determine a common design and color for the plates and provide for the placement of the artwork of the organization and a short piece of descriptive text on the plate. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates duplicate an existing registration. The regulations

(1) must provide that the entity requesting the issuance of the plates

(A) submit an application on a form provided by the department;

(B) pay an application fee set by the department for issuance of the new registration plates;

(C) may not be offensive in purpose, nature, activity, or name;

(D) may charge a fee for issuance of a specialty registration plate in addition to any registration fees set by statute or regulation;

(2) must establish procedures for owners of vehicles to purchase specialty registration plates under this subsection.

\* **Sec. 6.** AS 28.10.421(d)(18) is amended to read:

Isaacson  
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Sec. 5

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(18) special request plates

(A) for active firefighter and emergency medical service provider .....\$30;

(B) for ~~retired~~ [FORMER] firefighter and emergency medical service provider ..... \$50

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the fee required by (A) and (B) of this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance of and the replacement of the plates;

\* Sec. 7. AS 28.10.421(d) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(25) special request specialty organization plates under AS 28.10.181(ii)..... a fee in an amount established by the department by regulation plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance of and the replacement of the plates; in addition, an entity sponsoring a special request specialty organization plate may charge a fee on first issuance and renewal of the plates.

\* Sec. 8. This Act takes effect January 1, 2015.

*Sec 7 was tagged*

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 293(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES PEGGY WILSON, Isaacson

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to motor vehicle registration plates; relating to special registration  
2 plates for firefighters and emergency medical service providers; and providing for an  
3 effective date."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 28.10.161(b) is amended to read:

6 (b) Every passenger vehicle registration plate, except as specifically provided  
7 in AS 28.10.181, shall have displayed upon it

8 (1) **either**

9 (A) the Alaska flag **design, consisting of the Alaska flag,** [;

10 (2)] the traditional colors of yellow-gold and blue, **and** [; (3)] the slogan "The  
11 Last Frontier"; **or**

12 (B) **the bear design, consisting of a standing grizzly bear in**  
13 **the center of the plate; the bear design shall be modeled after the 1976**  
14 **bicentennial plate without the bicentennial symbol;**

L

1                    (2) [(4)] the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is  
2 issued;

3                    (3) [(5)] the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; and

4                    (4) [(6)] the registration year number or expiration date for which time  
5 it is validated; the registration year number or expiration date may be part of the  
6 license plate or contained on a suitable sticker or tab device issued by the department;  
7 however, only one sticker or tab device may be issued for each pair of plates, and the  
8 sticker or tab device must be affixed to the rear plate.

9 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.161(c) is amended to read:

10                    (c) The department may not adopt a new or altered passenger vehicle  
11 registration plate, except as specifically provided in AS 28.10.181, unless it  
12 substantially embodies the specifications of this section.

13 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 28.10.161 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14                    (d) The department shall produce registration plates in both of the designs  
15 described in (b)(1) of this section. Upon registering a passenger vehicle, the owner  
16 shall select the plate design described in (b)(1) of this section that is to be issued by  
17 the department for the vehicle.

18 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 28.10.181(z) is amended to read:

19                    (z) Special request firefighter and emergency medical service provider plates  
20 [AND FORMER FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
21 PROVIDER PLATES]. On application by the owner of a motor vehicle, the  
22 department may issue registration plates for [ACTIVE] firefighters and emergency  
23 medical service providers [AND REGISTRATION PLATES FOR FORMER  
24 FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS]. The  
25 commissioner shall determine the design and color of the plates. The department may  
26 disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested  
27 plates are a duplication of an existing registration. To be eligible for a

28                    [(1) AN ACTIVE] firefighter and emergency medical service provider  
29 plate, a person shall [MUST] present satisfactory proof that the person is

30                    (1) an active member of

31                    (A) a fire department in this state and the fire department is

1 recognized as a fire department by the state fire marshal; or

2 (B) an out-of-hospital emergency medical service certified by  
3 the Department of Health and Social Services; or

4 (2) a former firefighter or [AND] emergency medical service provider  
5 who [PLATE, A PERSON MUST PRESENT SATISFACTORY PROOF THAT THE  
6 PERSON] was an active member of

7 (A) a fire department in this state for a minimum of five [10]  
8 years; or

9 (B) an out-of-hospital emergency medical service certified by  
10 the Department of Health and Social Services for a minimum of five [10]  
11 years.

12 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 28.10.421(d)(18) is amended to read:

13 (18) special request plates

14 [(A)] for [ACTIVE] firefighter and emergency medical service  
15 provider .....\$30;

16 [(B) FOR FORMER FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY  
17 MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER .....\$50]

18 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section;  
19 the fee required by [(A) AND (B) OF] this paragraph shall be collected only on  
20 the first issuance of and the replacement of the plates;

21 \* **Sec. 6.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2015.

3/27/14

28-LS1304\N.1  
Strasbaugh  
3/24/14

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

Isaacson

TO: CSHB 293( ), Draft Version "N"

- 1 Page 1, lines 2 - 3:
- 2 Delete "relating to special registration plates for firefighters and emergency
- 3 medical service providers;"
- 4
- 5 Page 2, line 18, through page 3, line 9:
- 6 Delete all material.
- 7
- 8 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.
- 9
- 10 Page 3, line 31, through page 4, line 8:
- 11 Delete all material.
- 12
- 13 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

*Not offered as written*

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 293( ), Draft Version "N"

1 Page 1, lines 2 - 3:

2 Delete "relating to special registration plates for firefighters and emergency  
3 medical service providers;"

4

5 Page 2, line 18, through page 3, line 9:

6 Delete all material.

7

8 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

9

10 Page 3, line 31, through page 4, line 8:

11 Delete all material.

12

13 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Interim:*  
P.O. Box 109  
Wrangell, AK 99929  
Phone: (907) 874-3088  
Fax: (907) 874-3055



*Session:*  
State Capitol, Room 406  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3824  
1-800-686-3824  
Fax: (907) 465-3175

REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON  
HOUSE DISTRICT 33

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### HB 293

**"An Act relating to motor vehicle registration plates; and providing for an effective date."**

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HB 293 would allow for a second license plate to be chosen as the state's primary plate. Currently the primary license plate is a plain yellow background. This bill would allow residents to have a choice between the plain yellow and a plate that has a bear insignia - very similar to one of our most popular plates back in 1976.

According to a recent national poll, Alaska's primary license plate is rated number 48 out of the 50 states and 2 territories. Our state deserves better recognition! Bears are indelibly linked to Alaska.

This bill will also correct an error from a prior bill intended to allow retired firefighters and emergency medical service providers the honor of purchasing a plate indicating "Retired". Currently statute indicates "former", this will change that to "retired" which was the original intent of the bill.

Lastly, this bill will provide the Commissioner of Administration, Motor Vehicles Division the ability to develop a procedure to work directly with individuals or groups to create personalized background designed registration plates. It will require the Commissioner to develop a standardized template, process and fees for all applications.

This bill will be revenue neutral as it would require that the cost of specialized plates be fully covered by those making the request.

This will relieve the Legislature from the responsibility and time that it takes each session to approve specialty plates



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Interim:*  
P.O. Box 109  
Wrangell, AK 99929  
Phone: (907) 874-3088  
Fax: (907) 874-3055



*Session:*  
State Capitol, Room 406  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3824  
1-800-686-3824  
Fax: (907) 465-3175

REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON  
HOUSE DISTRICT 33

## Sectional

### Committee Substitute for House Bill 293

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#### Section 1:

- Provides for a second primary registration plate available to all Alaskan's. The second option will be a standing grizzly bear

#### Section 2 & 3:

- Conforming language that allows the department to offer the additional primary plate

#### Section 4 & 6:

- Corrects current statute to refer to "Retired" firefighters and emergency medical service providers instead of "former".

#### Section 5:

- Introduces a new subsection that will provide the department the authority to adopt regulation for special request plates. It will make the department responsible for creating a standard procedure that organizations can follow to request a specialty designed plate.

#### Section 7:

- Adds a new paragraph that instructs the department to create a fee schedule that fully covers the cost of creating a specialty designed plate

#### Section 8:

- Takes effect January 1, 2015

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 293  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB293-DOA-DMV-03-24-2014  
Title: BEAR LICENSE PLATES  
Sponsor: P.WILSON  
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration  
Appropriation: Motor Vehicles  
Allocation: Motor Vehicles  
OMB Component Number: 2348

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services	3.2						
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1005 GF/Prgm	3.2						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost:** 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost:** 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/15

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Amy Erickson, Director  
Division: Motor Vehicles  
Approved By: Curtis Thayer, Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: (907)269-5574  
Date: 03/21/2014 12:00 AM  
Date: 03/24/14

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 293

### Analysis

This bill would amend AS 28.10.161 and require DMV to provide an additional standard license plate design with a bear graphic in the middle which would be based on the 1976 bicentennial plate. Currently there is only one standard plate for the State of Alaska which is a blue and gold design based on the colors of the Alaska flag.

#### **Associated costs:**

At this time it is unknown if the State of Alaska owns the rights to the original graphic on the license plate issued in the 1970s. Additionally, due to the timeframe the bear graphic was created it is unlikely the image would be in a format that could be utilized by today's technology. DMV will need to hire a graphic artist to design a plate with a new bear graphic. We anticipate requesting a minimum of three bear designs to submit for approval. There will also be a \$250 design fee from our contractor to create a sample license plate.

Cost to produce one bear design including edits: \$1,000

Cost of new sample license plate: \$250

Total: \$1,000 x 3 bear designs = \$3,000 + \$250 license plate sample: \$3,250

#### **Additional information:**

The DMV warehouse supplies all DMV offices, commission agents, and business partners with the standard State of Alaska license plate. License plate orders take approximately four months from the time the order is placed to the time they are received at the warehouse location in Anchorage. DMV anticipates a final design proof will take six to eight weeks. Therefore, DMV will need a minimum of six months lead time to provide a new standard license plate.

This act will take effect on January 1, 2015.



# LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

Alaska State Legislature  
Division of Legal and Research Services  
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 465-3991 phone  
(907) 465-3908 fax  
[research@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:research@legis.state.ak.us)

## Research Brief

TO: Representative Peggy Wilson  
FROM: Katie Spielberger, Legislative Analyst  
DATE: March 13, 2014  
RE: Specialty License Plate Availability and Approval Process in Other States  
*LRS Report 14.302*

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***You asked how many other states allow specialty license plates. You also wished to know about the approval process for a new specialty plate design in other states. You were especially interested in states that do not require legislative action to approve new designs.***

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Specialty license plates—also called “special” or “distinctive” plates—deviate from a state’s standard design and may instead denote military status or support for various organizations and causes—for example, environmental groups, universities, or breast cancer awareness. All states have special plates available for disability parking privileges, typically at no additional charge, and for military members and veterans, often at no additional charge.<sup>1</sup> All states also allow some number of specialty license plate designs in support of organizations or causes; in many states, a portion of the fee charged goes to support the special interest group or cause connected to the plate. States vary widely in the number of specialty designs they allow. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), more than 700 specialty license plate designs are currently allowed in Maryland; Nevada, on the other hand, passed a law in 2011 to allow only 30 specialty designs to be in circulation at any one time.<sup>2</sup>

Based on our review of specialty license plate laws, it appears the states employ various processes for approving new designs. We identified several states that do not involve the legislature at all in approving specialty license plate designs. In Montana, a state agency, local government, school district, tribal government, or non-profit organization—provided it does not have as its primary focus promoting the adoption of certain religious or political viewpoints—may apply for a “generic specialty license plate.” Montana law sets out numerous requirements for an entity and the department of motor vehicles (DMV) to follow in the process, but does not require legislative action.<sup>3</sup> California allows its DMV to issue special interest license plates for organizations and state agencies.<sup>4</sup> Texas law authorizes its DMV to create new specialty license plates either on its own initiative or upon receipt of an application from a sponsor, which may be any non-profit entity.<sup>5</sup>

Other states involve the legislature in various ways. In several states, including Alaska, it appears that the only way to introduce a new license plate design is through legislation.<sup>6</sup> Some states provide a process by which groups may submit a new design to be considered by the legislature. Florida and Maine, for example, provide for an application process by which an organization may submit a proposal for a new plate design to be taken up for legislative consideration.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Transportation Review: Motor Vehicle Registration and License Plates,” by Anne Teigen and William Smallen, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), August, 2011. We include a copy of this review as Attachment A.

<sup>2</sup> The NCSL lists the number of specialty, organizational, and military license plates allowed in each state at <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/license-plate-information.aspx#A>.

<sup>3</sup> Mont. Code Ann. § 61-3-473 *et seq.*

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Vehicle Code § 5060 and 5156, respectively.

<sup>5</sup> Tex. Transportation Code § 504.801.

<sup>6</sup> We include a copy of Alaska Statute § 28.10.181, which lists all types of permissible special registration plates, as Attachment B.

<sup>7</sup> Fla. Stat. 320.08053 *et seq.* and Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 29 § 468 *et seq.*

States requiring the involvement of legislators, but not legislation, in the approval of new plate designs include Alabama, where proposed distinctive plates must be approved by a legislative oversight committee, and Missouri, where a new specialty plate must be sponsored by at least one member of the general assembly.<sup>8</sup>

Regardless of the approval process, the majority of states require a sponsoring organization to guarantee that a certain number of plates will be sold, according to NCSL, and applications for specialty designs often require a substantial fee.

We include as Attachment C relevant statutes from Alabama, California, Missouri, Montana, and Texas.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

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<sup>8</sup> Ala. Code 1975 § 32-6-64 and 67 and Mo. Rev. Stat. § 301.3150.

## Specialty license plates

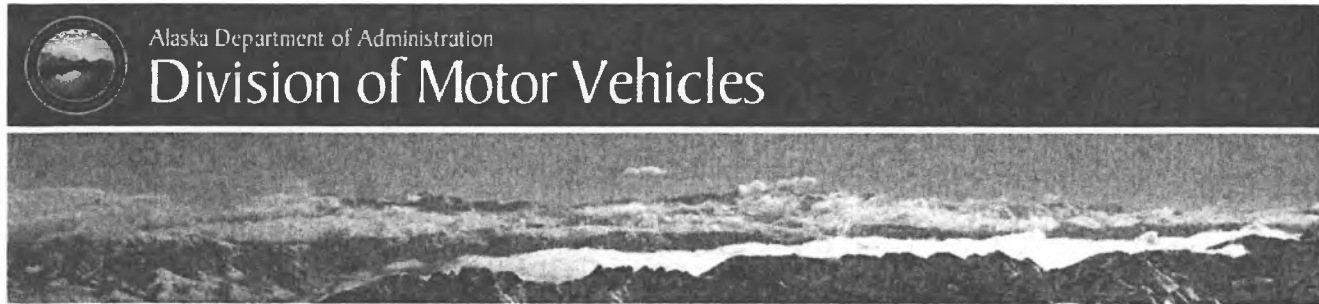
License plate type	Available at DMV	FY2009 Orders	FY2010 Orders	FY2011 Orders	FY2012 Orders	FY2013 Orders	5 Year Total by Plate Type
Historical	Y	12	8	17	11	0	48
Veterans commemorative	Y	74	55	64	80	60	333
Gold Star Family	N	123	0	0	0	0	123
Support our Troops	N	285	234	266	251	146	1,182
UAA-Anchorage	Y	10	11	14	10	8	53
UAA-Fairbanks	Y	8	8	0	18	14	48
UAA-Southeast	Y	2	1	0	0	1	4
Prince William Sound College	Y	0	0	0	1	0	1
Military unit designation	Y	508	682	815	787	913	3,705
Custom collectors plate	Y	2	56	45	37	41	181
Children's Trust plate	Y	39	29	22	30	21	141
Choose Life	N	Choose Life, NRA, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Pro Family, Pro Choice plates were created by legislation passed in FY 2012.			14	46	60
Natl Rifle Assoc (NRA)	N				0	177	177
Breast Cancer Awareness	N				0	0	0
Pro Family, Pro Choice	N				0	8	8
<b>Total by Year</b>		<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,435</b>	
Personalized	N	4,737	4,478	4,801	4,820	2,520	21,356

DMV also has a number of license plates that require a certificate of eligibility or membership card to obtain. These plates are grouped under the personalized plate code and are not counted separately in our system. They include the following:

- Fire fighter
- Freemason
- Lions club
- Knights of Columbus
- Iditarod finisher
- In God We Trust
- Prisoner of War or Purple Heart (Available at DMV)
- Pearl Harbor Survivor

License plates not available at DMV must be special ordered at a DMV office or via our website. Each plate set is made at the time of order. Plates that are available at DMV have a minimum order of one case/50 sets of plates per case.

There is a \$250 set up fee from our license plate contractor to create a sample plate for any new design.



## License Plate Information

Alaska law requires motor vehicles to display **two** license plates. A month tab and a current year tab must be displayed on the back plate, only. Motorcycles and trailers have **one** license plate with month and year tabs. If you have a passenger vehicle, motorhome, truck or van with only one plate, see Duplicate Plates for procedures to obtain the correct plates.

DMV does not sell used license plates. To obtain a **SAMPLE** license plate for your collection or for a school project, please click on Sample / **SOUVENIR** Plates.

### General Public License Plates Gallery

### Restricted License Plates Gallery

### Special Issue License Plates

- Amateur Radio / Call Sign Plates
- Charitable Exempt Plates
- Breast Cancer Plates
- Choose Life
- Church Exempt Plates
- Children's Trust Plates
- Commemorative Veteran Plates
- Disability Plates
- Disabled Veteran Plates
- Gold Star Family
- Farm Vehicle
- Fire Fighter / EMS
- Fraternal Organization
  - Freemason
  - Lions Club
  - Knights of Columbus
- Historic Vehicle
- Iditarod Finisher Plates
- In God We Trust
- Military Plates
- NRA Plates
- Personalized Plates
- Prisoner of War Plates
- Pro-Family, Pro Choice Plates
- Support our Troops Plates
- Transferring Plates
- University Plates
- Vanity Plates
- Veteran Plates

#### **Alaska Statute Sec. 28.10.171. Display of registration plates.**

(a) When two registration plates are issued for a vehicle, they shall be attached to the vehicle for which issued, one in front and the other in the rear. When one registration plate is issued, it shall be attached to the rear of the vehicle for which issued.

(b) Every registration plate issued under this chapter shall be securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned, with the upper edge of the plate horizontal, at a height of not less than 12 inches from the ground measuring from the bottom of the plate, and maintained in a location and condition so as to be clearly legible. However, when considered necessary to insure legibility, the commissioner may provide by regulation for another method of installation.



State	# Speciality Plates	Legislative approval Needed
Alaska	58	YES
Alabama	112	NO
Arizona	54	NO
Arkansas	111	NO
California	30	NO
Colorado	108	YES
Connecticut	66	NO
Delaware	99	NO
Florida	122	YES
Georgia	89	NO
Hawaii	22	YES
Idaho	43	COMBO
Illinois	51	YES
Iowa	65	YES
Kansas	26	NO
Kentucky	84	YES
Louisiana	152	NO
Maine	23	YES
Maryland	700+	NO
Massachusetts	18	NO
Michigan	56	YES
Minnesota	44	YES
Mississippi	167	YES
Missouri	189	YES
Montana	150	NO
Nebraska	7	YES
Nevada	42	YES
New Hampshire	8	YES
New Mexico	41	YES
New York	210	YES
North Carolina	127	YES
North Dakota	17	NO
Ohio	148	YES
Oklahoma	182	YES
Oregon	34	YES
Pennsylvania	200+	YES
Rhode Island	15	YES
South Carolina	136	YES
South Dakota	100	YES
Tennessee	95	YES
Texas	102	NO
Utah	63	YES
Vermont	17	NO
Virginia	200+	YES
Washington	51	YES
West Virginia	54	YES
Wisconsin	32	COMBO
Wyoming	14	COMBO

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Interim:*  
P.O. Box 109  
Wrangell, AK 99929  
Phone: (907) 874-3088  
Fax: (907) 874-3055



*Session:*  
State Capitol, Room 406  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3824  
1-800-686-3824  
Fax: (907) 465-3175

REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY WILSON  
HOUSE DISTRICT 33

## MEMORANDUM

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Date: March 18, 2014

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair, House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Peggy Wilson

RE: **HB 293** - "An Act relating to motor vehicle registration plates; and providing for an effective date."

I request that you calendar HB 293 for your committee.

House Bill 293 allows for a second primary state license plate.

I would also ask that the committee allow me to introduce a blank CS that addresses several more important items that have come to light since I first introduced the bill. The CS would make a correction to wording so that retired firefighters can be honored with a license plate – current statute indicates "former". Lastly, the CS would provide the Commissioner of Administration, DMV the ability to develop a procedure to approve personalized registration plates in the future instead of going through the legislature each time.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation.

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Nancy Manly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:08 AM  
**To:** Chere Klein  
**Subject:** RE: HB293

3/19/2014

Hi Chere:

Thank you for your email with HB293 electronic documents to be heard in HSTA. All documents that are in word need to be reformatted to a PDF. Would you change all of those and email them back to me? Send all documents to me rather than Rep Lynn. Thanks.

Nancy Manly, Chief of Staff and  
House State Affairs Committee Aide for  
**Representative Bob Lynn**  
**House District 23**  
907-465-2794 Fax: 907-465-4316

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**From:** Rep. Bob Lynn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:03 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** FW: HB293

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**From:** Chere Klein  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:13 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bob Lynn  
**Subject:** HB293

Please find attached information from Rep Wilson requesting to hear HB 293.

I will deliver a hard copy tomorrow morning per your scheduling request – I will be the staff contact for this bill.

Attachments:

Memo from Sponsor

HB293

Blank CS

Sponsor Statement

Sectional Analysis

Background documents including – Leg Research, 2 pages; AK DMV specialty license documents, 3 pages; 50 state summary, 1 page

Thank you!

*Chere Klein*  
*Legislative Staff to Representative Peggy Wilson*  
*Alaska State Capitol*  
*Room 406*  
*Juneau, AK 99802*

(907) 465-6887 or 465-3824  
1-800-686-3824

[Chere.Klein@akleg.gov](mailto:Chere.Klein@akleg.gov)  
<http://house.legis.state.ak.us/>  
[www.housemajority.org](http://www.housemajority.org)

*CONFIDENTIALITY: This email and any attachments are intended for the addressee and may contain confidential information.*

## Additional Documents *for* **HB 293**

- Support emails received
  - Albee
  - Athey
  - Axtell
  - Carlson
  - Clime
  - Flynn
  - Hill Koklich
  - McIntyre
  - Miller
  - Stubblefield
  - Thordarson
  - Vignola
  - Vincent

## **Nancy Manly**

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**From:** Mike Albee <mike.albee.ak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 10:05 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** HB 293

Please ensure the designation on license plates be Active or Retired. This should be the same for both Volunteer and Paid responders.

Best Regards,

Mike Albee  
Greater Prudhoe Bay Fire Department (Active)

**“In GOD We Trust”**

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Eddie Athey <eathey@cityofseward.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2014 10:01 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Cc:** Michael Paschall  
**Subject:** HB 293

To whom it may concern:

I am writing today in support of the changes proposed by HB 293 on behalf of firefighters in my area and all across our great State. Although this is a seemingly minor language change there is a great deal of significance and pride between the term of "Former" or "Retired"!

Even with clarification language of 10 years of service there is still a connotation associated with "Former" that could be anyone who has ever served as an emergency responder. The designation "Retired" leaves no doubt that an individual has given selflessly to their community for at least 20 or more years, which holds true across the nation through all levels of service and matters not if an individual was paid or volunteered....service is service!

Thank you so much for your support and your service!

Eddie

Edward Athey

Fire Chief / Building Official

City of Seward

President, Alaska State Firefighters Association

(907) 224-3445 wk

(907) 224-8633 fax

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Bruce N. Axtell <baxtell@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2014 11:10 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** Retired plate

I personally would really like to get one of the "Retired" Fire Department plates when I retire. Please pass this on to the powers that be.

Bruce N. Axtell

Deputy Fire Chief

Palmer Fire & Rescue

645 E. Cope Industrial Way

Palmer, Alaska 99645

907-745-2979

[baxtell@mtaonline.net](mailto:baxtell@mtaonline.net)

[baxtell@palmerak.org](mailto:baxtell@palmerak.org)



## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Gary Carlson <Gary.Carlson@north-slope.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:20 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** FW: HB 293

Please note my preference firefighter license designation for both paid and volunteer be Active and Retired. Thank you.

Gary Carlson, Barrow Fire Chief

P.O. Box 069

Barrow, AK 99723

Email: [gary.carlson@north-slope.org](mailto:gary.carlson@north-slope.org)

Phone: 907.852.0234 ext 662

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Clime, Richard D (DOC) <richard.clime@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 10:14 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Cc:** Suzy Hill  
**Subject:** FW: LICENSE PLATE BILL BEING HEARD THIS MORNING

Hello Nancy,

My name is Rych Clime, and I'm a retired volunteer firefighter in Juneau. I was asked to make my spill to the License Plate Bill that is up for hearing.

As a longtime volunteer firefighter, EMT-I, and driver/engineer with the Capital City Fire Rescue, I also happen to represent the Alaska State Firefighters Association, not only as a current Board of Directors representative, but also as an ASFA Life Long Member (recently voted in with doing 20+ years as a ASFA member in good standing). As a volunteer firefighter, it is a different realm of how long a volunteer last versus a paid/career firefighter. I once said to my chief, the national census of a volunteer lasting is 5 year average. He said he'd be happy if we could each volunteer a full year.

With all the new regulations of what is expected of a volunteer firefighter (as well as a career firefighter), all the new laws and OSHA requirements, that keep active volunteer volumes down. I remember in Juneau, we used to be the biggest ASFA chapter in the state with 250+ volunteers alone (not including the career staff head count). These numbers are dwindling to barely 20-25, this is not just in Juneau, but across other communities across Alaska and across our great nation.

For those that volunteer, having a license plate in honor of them would be a HUGE incentive for staying active as volunteer firefighter (regardless if it's firefighting, EMS or both combined). The ground rules would apply to be able to have a state license plate as a "retired" firefighter is more or less towards those that volunteer their time, but there are credentials that meet that requirement to have and honor that license plate.

To have a license plate that states "retired" versus "formal" is different levels of what the credential would fall under. You don't see a "veteran" (military) license plate versus a "formal military" license plate. You don't see a Alaska Kids license plate versus a "formal kid" license plate.

I think that having a "Retired" license plate would benefit the volunteer who made a difference, stuck with program of serving his/her community and be proud to honor that license plate as would a military "Veteran" would.

Please consider these option. Even though I'm a retired volunteer firefighter, I'm still a "Supporter" of the fire services. As we always say "Once a firefighter, Always a firefighter". I may not be volunteering/firefighting, but I'm always doing "behind the scene", stuff still to this date, making things happened for volunteer firefighters within the State of Alaska and any other fire service related issues that needs address, regardless if it's volunteering or a career firefighter. And I don't want to wait another 20 years to wait for something I would support my state on to realizing the little request the fire dept's represent and ask of our volunteers that respond in the middle of the night, away from their families, training on their own time and also carrying another job or two to make ends meet but still represent their community and state in good standing as the community see that volunteer as a "hero" regardless on the scene, in the scene or behind the scene.

Thank you,

*RYCH D. CLIME*



**RYCH CLIME**  
Accounting Tech I

Alaska Department of Corrections  
P.O. Box 112000 • Juneau, AK 99811-2000  
Office: (907) 465-3471 • Fax: (907) 465-1856  
richard.clime@alaska.gov

★ CHOOSE RESPECT ★

-----Original Message-----

From: Suzie Hill Koklich [mailto:[arkalaska@yahoo.com](mailto:arkalaska@yahoo.com)]

Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:31 AM

To: Alaska Fire Standards Council; Jennifer Stubblefield; Sean Wisner; akfst; Clime, Richard D (DOC); Edie Athey; Janice Melvin

Cc: Robert Dennard; [moosepassfireems@yahoo.com](mailto:moosepassfireems@yahoo.com); BillieJo Gehring; Grimes, Dan (DOT); Mike Waide; Mike Weber; Matt Smelcer; Brandy Smelcer; Bryan Vincent; Rhonda Williams

Subject: LICENSE PLATE BILL BEING HEARD THIS MORNING

Please send an email to [nancy.manly@akleg.gov](mailto:nancy.manly@akleg.gov), referencing HB 293. Let them know that we would like the destinations of Active and Retired and not former and why. One legislator said he didn't know volunteers could retire.....what we work for free forever? And career folks DO retire, they are NOT former!

Please do this ASAP AS THIS BILL IS COMING FORWARD THIS MORNING. And ask any other firefighter/ems folks you know to do the same

Thanks!

Suzie

Suzie Hill Koklich  
Alaska Director  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
P.O. 876  
Valdez, Alaska. 99686  
907-835-4246 Home  
907-831-1975 Cell  
E-mail: [arkalaska@yahoo.com](mailto:arkalaska@yahoo.com)  
Sent from my iPad

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Mitch Flynn <Mitch.Flynn@steesefire.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 10:23 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** FW: HB 293

Hi Nancy,

Please add my support to “Retired instead of “Former” to License plates. Thank you!

Mitch

**From:** Mitch Flynn  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:28 AM  
**To:** 'Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov'  
**Subject:** HB 293

Good Morning Tammie,

Is this a bill you can support? I have volunteers who have retired (no pay) and one who is planning on retiring this summer after 34 years with Steese VFD. I would like to see the word “Retired” on the specialty license plate and not “Former”. Call me if you have any questions!

**Mitch Flynn, Fire Chief**

Steese Volunteer Fire Department

800 William C Leary Lane

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

(907) 457-1519 Direct Office

(907) 457-3710 Admin

(907) 347-7685 Cell

[mitch.flynn@steesefire.org](mailto:mitch.flynn@steesefire.org)

Good Morning Tammie,

Is this a bill you can support? I have volunteers who have retired (no pay) and one who is planning on retiring this summer after 34 years with Steese VFD. I would like to see the word "Retired" on the license plate and not "Former".

Mitch Flynn, Fire Chief

Steese Volunteer Fire Department

800 William C Leary Lane

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

(907) 457-1519 Direct Office

(907) 457-3710 Admin

(907) 347-7685 Cell

[mitch.flynn@steesefire.org](mailto:mitch.flynn@steesefire.org)

\* HB 293 - Bear License Plates

Sponsored by Rep. Peggy Wilson

HB 293 will correct an error from a prior bill intended to allow retired firefighters and emergency medical service providers the honor of purchasing a plate indicating "Retired". Currently statute indicates "former", this will change that to "retired" which was the original intent of the bill.

HB 293 would allow for a second license plate to be chosen as the state's primary plate. Currently the primary license plate is a plain yellow background. This bill would allow residents to have a choice between the plain yellow and a plate that has a bear insignia - very similar to one of our most popular plates back in 1976.

Lastly, this bill will provide the Commissioner of Administration, Motor Vehicles Division the ability to develop a procedure to work directly with individuals or groups to create personalized background designed registration plates. It will require the Commissioner to develop a standardized template, process and fees for all applications.

This bill will be revenue neutral as it would require that the cost of specialized plates be fully covered by those making the request.

This will relieve the Legislature from the responsibility and time that it takes each session to approve specialty plates

Suzie Hill Koklich

Alaska Director

National Volunteer Fire Council

P.O. 876

Valdez, Alaska. 99686

907-835-4246 Home

907-831-1975 Cell

E-mail: [arkalaska@yahoo.com](mailto:arkalaska@yahoo.com)

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Suzie Hill Koklich <arkalaska@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:39 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Cc:** Michael Paschall  
**Subject:** HB 293

As a VOLUNTEER firefighter with 33 years of service to my community and state, i was thrilled to be recognized a few years back when the legislature approve a firefighter license plate. What I was not happy with was the designation of "former" vs our wish as a group for the term "retired". Please remove the "former" designation and replace it with "retired". I hope to one day proudly display a "retired" fire service p,ate on my vehicle. I don't think that is much to ask in return for my and others years of volunteerism to help keep our communities prepared and safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzie

Suzie Hill Koklich  
Alaska Director  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
P.O. 876  
Valdez, Alaska. 99686  
907-835-4246 Home  
907-831-1975 Cell  
E-mail: [arkalaska@yahoo.com](mailto:arkalaska@yahoo.com)  
Sent from my iPad

## **Nancy Manly**

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**From:** McIntyre, James M. <James.McIntyre@alyeska-pipeline.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:12 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** REQUEST: HB 293 LICENSE PLATE BILL

We (I and several of my colleges) request that the designation on license plates be changed from the current "Former" to "Retired" as listed in the work draft sponsored by Rep Peggy Wilson.

'Former' does not portray the proper status for the individuals on these plates. Yes, volunteers retire from service. And career members retire.

**James McIntyre**

**Active EMS Member**

Mobile 907.831.9102

Valdez, AK 99686

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Dave Miller <davem@cityofsitka.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:31 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** HB293  
**Attachments:** David E Miller.vcf

Hello Nancy,

I was told that you are the person to write a quick note to on HB293 . I am the Fire Chief of Sitka and a very active member of the Alaska State Firefighters Association and have worked on the Emergency Responder license plate issue for a number of years. I have heard that this bill is coming up to today in Juneau and would like to request that these license plates either have ACTIVE for active members of a department or Retired for members that have put in their time and have retired.

Thanks very much for listening for me.

Dave Miller

**David E. Miller**

Fire Chief  
Sitka Fire Department  
209 Lake St.  
Sitka AK. 99835

(907) 747-1860 Work  
(907) 738-6890 Cell  
(907) 747-5890 Home  
davem@cityofsitka.com

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Jennifer Stubblefield <jjstubblefield@write.me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:53 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** house bill 293

Dear Ms. Manly,

I am a firefighter and am in support of HB 293 with regards to the firefighter portion. It is important that we recognize retired firefighters by allowing them to purchase "Retired" license plates. These firefighters performed a service for their community for several years, and this small token of appreciation allows them to continue to take pride in the fire service.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stubblefield  
First Vice-President  
Alaska State Firefighters Association

Sent using the free mail.com iPad App

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Meg Thordarson <jnugems@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 10:19 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 293

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Meg Thordarson <jnugems@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** March 27, 2014 at 10:14:36 AKDT  
**To:** "nancy..manly@akleg.gov" <nancy..manly@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 293

The fire plates should be Active for current members and Retired for members that have served but are no longer active . Retired is more positive and shows we value their service weather a volunteer or a career member . Their service to the community is very valued .

Thank you  
Meg Thordarson  
CCFR Volunteer .  
[jnugems@yahoo.com](mailto:jnugems@yahoo.com)  
907-723-7787

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Vignola, James F. <VignolaJF@ci.anchorage.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:54 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** HB 293

Dear Ms. Manly,

I am writing to you to express my understanding of the words "retired" firefighter and "former" firefighter. A retired firefighter is one who worked, or volunteered, in the fire service, dedicated at least 20 years of their life to the service, and left (retired) as a member in good standing. A former firefighter is anyone who worked in the fire service who quit before they tenured or was fired or asked to resign from the service. The last thing I would want to see is an individual who volunteered for a year or was fired from the job, driving around with a "Retired Firefighter" license plate.

The current Fire Chief of the department should have to sign the request for such a license plate to ensure the member left in good standing.

Respectfully,

*Jim Vignola*

DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS  
ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
100 E 4<sup>TH</sup> AVE.  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
(907) 267-5091 OFFICE  
(907) 529-0997 MOBILE  
[VIGNOLAJF@MUNI.ORG](mailto:VIGNOLAJF@MUNI.ORG)

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Bryan Vincent <bvincent.ak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:06 AM  
**To:** Nancy Manly  
**Subject:** License Plate Bill

Good morning,

I am writing this morning to give my input on the firefighter license plate bill that is going to be heard this morning.

I would like to see the designations changed to say Active or Retired. These designations work for all firefighters, whether Paid or Volunteer. All firefighters have the ability to retire at the end of their career. I believe the title of Retired is considerably more honorable than Former.

Thank you for your time.

Bryan Vincent