**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 137 TO CHAPTER 3, TITLE 56 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES MAY ISSUE SPECIAL PERSONALIZED MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES; AND TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑2250, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SAMPLE LICENSE PLATES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, SO AS TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT PROVIDES THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO DISPLAY A SAMPLE LICENSE PLATE ON A MOTOR VEHICLE AND THE PENALTY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CRIME, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY RETAIN THE FEE THAT IS CHARGED FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THIS LICENSE PLATE, TO PROVIDE THAT THIS DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE SOUVENIR LICENSE PLATES FOR ANY SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL LICENSE PLATE THAT IT PRODUCES, AND PERSONALIZED SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL SOUVENIR LICENSE PLATES FOR A FEE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE FEES, TO PROVIDE THAT THESE LICENSE PLATES MAY BE DISPLAYED ONLY ON THE FRONT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE, AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Article 137

Special Personalized Motor Vehicle License Plates

Section 56‑3‑1370. (A) The department may issue special personalized motor vehicle license plates to owners of private passenger motor vehicles as defined in Section 56‑3‑630, and motorcycles as defined in Section 56‑3‑20, registered in their names for any special organizational plate authorized pursuant to Section 56‑3‑8000, Section 56‑3‑8100, or any other organizational plate authorized by law. In order for a specialized license plate to be personalized, the sponsoring organization, if there is one, must agree to make the license plate available for personalization. The person requesting the special personalized license plate must meet all of the requirements to obtain the specialty license plate.

(B) The fee for all special personalized organizational license plates created pursuant to this section is the regular biennial registration fee set forth in Article 5, Chapter 3 of this title plus an additional biennial personalization fee of thirty dollars, in addition to any special fee associated with the selected plate design. The Comptroller General shall place twenty dollars of the special personalized organizational license plate fee in a special restricted account to be used by the department to defray the expenses of the department. The remaining ten dollars of the personalization fee must be distributed to the sponsoring organization. The department may not refund the fee once the personalized license plate has been manufactured.

(C) The license plate design must be identical to the design approved by the department for the organizational license plate, but the license plate will bear the requested number or letter combination subject to approval by the department. There may be no duplication of registration license plate letter or number combinations. The department, in its discretion, may refuse the issue of letter or number combinations which may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency.”

SECTION 2. Section 56‑3‑2250 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑3‑2250. (A) The Department of Motor Vehicles may provide, upon request, a sample motor vehicle license plate ~~which shall not be displayed on any vehicle registered or required to be registered in this State. Any person displaying such plate is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than thirty days~~. The license plate shall be of the same size and general design of regular motor vehicle license plates ~~and the~~ . The fee for issuance of such license plate shall be ten dollars. ~~Provided, that the word ‘sample’ shall be imprinted on the license plate.~~ The department may retain the ten dollar fee to recoup its cost for producing the license plate.

(B)(1) The department is authorized to produce, upon request, souvenir license plates for any special organizational license plate produced pursuant to Section 56‑3‑8000 or Section 56‑3‑8100 or any other special organizational license plate authorized by law. In order for a special organizational license plate to be available as a souvenir license plate, the sponsoring organization, if there is one, must agree to make the license plate available as a souvenir license plate.

(2) The fee for the special organizational souvenir license plate is twenty dollars. Ten dollars of this fee shall be retained by the department as specified in subsection (A), and the additional ten dollars shall be distributed to the sponsoring organization.

(C) The department shall determine the method to designate the sample and souvenir license plates described in this section.

(D)(1) An individual may apply for a personalized special organizational souvenir license plate with a license plate text to be selected by the applicant in a letter and numeral plate text format the department prescribes. The department, in its discretion, may refuse to issue a license plate text that may carry connotations offensive to good taste.

(2) In order for a special organizational license plate to be available as a personalized souvenir license plate, the sponsoring organization, if there is one, must agree to make the license plate available as a souvenir license plate.

(3) The fee for the license plate contained in this subsection is thirty dollars. Twenty dollars of this fee shall be retained by the department to defray the expenses of the department. Ten dollars of this fee shall be distributed to the organization described in subsection (B).

(E) These sample or souvenir license plates may be displayed only on the front of private passenger motor vehicles as defined in Section 56‑3‑630 or as otherwise allowed by law in the owner’s home state and shall not be displayed on the back of any vehicle registered or required to be registered in this State or as otherwise allowed by law in the owner’s home state.

(F) Any person displaying a license plate in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days for each violation.”

SECTION 3. The repeal or amendment by this act of any law, whether temporary or permanent or civil or criminal, does not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the effective date of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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