



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	S. 0585	Amended by the House of Representatives on April 16, 2026
Subject:	Motor Vehicle Registration	
Requestor:	Senate Transportation	
RFA Analyst(s):	Griffith	
Impact Date:	May 8, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to add the notation “SAFE” to a motor vehicle registration to indicate that the registered owner or a child or ward of the registered owner has been diagnosed with certain disabilities or disorders. The notation “SAFE” means Safeguarding American Families Everywhere. DMV must allow an owner or co-owner to update a motor vehicle registration to include or remove the “SAFE” designation at any time and must allow the child or ward of the registered owner upon turning eighteen years old to remove the designation upon submitting proper documentation to the department. Additionally, the amended bill adds autism and neurodivergence to the definition of “handicapped” as it relates to license plates for handicapped individuals.

The amended bill also adds Operation Inherent Resolve to the special license plates that DMV may issue to service members who participated in certain military campaigns. Further, the amended bill allows DMV to issue Armed Forces Surviving Spouse special license plates to the surviving spouse of a military veteran. These special license plates are exempt from the \$6,800 application fee required in Section 56-3-8100(A). Therefore, DMV will be responsible for the cost of producing each new license plate.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on DMV since the agency can manage the responsibilities of the “SAFE” designation on motor vehicle registrations and the cost of production for the two new special license plates within existing appropriations.

The bill will increase Other Funds revenue of the Department of Transportation (DOT), Other Funds revenue of DMV, and Other Funds revenue of the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SCTIB). The amount generated will depend on the number of special license plates requested. Fees are distributed in the following manner: pursuant to Section 56-3-620, \$16 of each biennial registration fee is credited to the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund (IMTF), which is Other Funds of DOT; pursuant to Section 56-3-1230, \$2 of each biennial fee is credited to the Plate Replacement Fund (PRF), which is Other Funds of DMV; and the remainder of each registration fee is placed into the state highway account of the SCTIB pursuant to Section 56-3-910.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by the House of Representatives on April 16, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill allows the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to add the notation “SAFE” to a motor vehicle registration to indicate that the registered owner or a child or ward of the registered owner has been diagnosed with certain disabilities or disorders. Currently, a different notation may be added to a motor vehicle registration indicating the driver may be deaf or hard of hearing. The notation “SAFE” means Safeguarding American Families Everywhere. DMV must allow an owner or co-owner to update a motor vehicle registration to include or remove the “SAFE” designation at any time and must allow the child or ward of the registered owner upon turning eighteen years old to remove the designation upon submitting proper documentation to the department. Additionally, the amended bill adds autism and neurodivergence to the definition of “handicapped” as it relates to license plates for handicapped individuals.

In addition, the amended bill adds Operation Inherent Resolve to the special license plates that DMV may issue to service members who participated in certain military campaigns. Further, the amended bill allows DMV to issue Armed Forces Surviving Spouse special license plates to the surviving spouse of a military veteran. These special license plates are exempt from the \$6,800 application fee required in Section 56-3-8100(A). Therefore, DMV will be responsible for the cost of producing each new license plate.

DMV indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency since it can manage the responsibilities of the “SAFE” designation on motor vehicle registrations and the cost of production of the two new special license plates within existing appropriations.

State Revenue

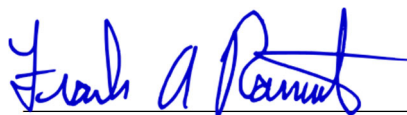
This bill allows DMV to issue Operation Inherent Resolve and Armed Forces Surviving Spouse special license plates. These plates will be subject to the biennial motor vehicle registration fee, but there is no specialty plate fee.

Pursuant to Section 56-3-620, \$16 of each biennial registration fee is currently credited to the IMTF, which is Other Funds of DOT. Pursuant to 56-3-1230, \$2 of each biennial fee is currently credited to the PRF, which is Other Funds of DMV. Further, the remainder of each registration fee is placed into the state highway account of the SCTIB pursuant to Section 56-3-910.

The increase in Other Funds revenue of DOT, Other Funds revenue of DMV, and Other Funds revenue of the SCTIB will depend upon the number of Operation Inherent Resolve and Armed Forces Surviving Spouse license plates that are requested.

Local Expenditure and Local Revenue

N/A



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