



# 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.*

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**Bill Number:** S. 1119 Introduced on April 14, 2026  
**Subject:** Blackout License Plates  
**Requestor:** Senate Transportation  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Griffith  
**Impact Date:** April 20, 2026

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue blackout special license plates for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles. The blackout license plate is exempt from the application fee pursuant to Section 56-3-8100(A). Therefore, DMV will be responsible for the cost of producing each new license plate.

The agency indicates that there will be no expenditure impact on Other Funds of DMV since the agency can manage the cost of production within its 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, and 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. Further, the remainder of each registration fee is placed into the state highway account of the SCTIB pursuant to Section 56-3-910. Additionally, of the additional biennial registration fee, the amount equal to the cost of the production and distribution of the license plates is deposited into the State Highway Fund (SHF) of DOT. DMV indicates that it costs \$5.53 and \$4.42 to produce and distribute a special license plate for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles, respectively. The remaining amounts of the fee will also be distributed to the SHF.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Introduced on April 14, 2026

#### State Expenditure

This bill authorizes DMV to issue blackout special license plates for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles. 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.

The agency indicates that there will be no expenditure impact on Other Funds of DMV since the agency can manage the cost of production within its existing appropriations.

### **State Revenue**

This bill authorizes DMV to issue blackout special license plates for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles. The fee for each standard blackout license plate is \$40 plus the regular biennial registration fee set forth in Article 5, Chapter 3, Title 56. The fee for each special personalized plate is \$60 plus the regular biennial registration fee set forth in Article 5, Chapter 3, Title 56. The amount of the registration fee varies by age and handicap status of the individual registrant, type and weight of vehicle, and designation of private-passenger or property-carrying.

Pursuant to Section 56-3-620, \$16 of each biennial registration fee is currently credited to the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund, which is Other Funds of DOT. Pursuant to 56-3-1230, \$2 of each biennial fee is currently credited to the Plate Replacement Fund, 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.

Of the \$40 additional biennial registration fee for a standard blackout license plate, the amount equal to the cost of the production and distribution of the license plates is deposited into the SHF, which is Other Funds of DOT. DMV indicates that it costs \$5.53 and \$4.42 to produce and distribute a special license plate for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles, respectively. The remaining \$34.47 and \$35.58 of the \$40 fee will be distributed to the SHF.

Of the \$60 additional biennial registration fee for a personalized blackout license plate, the amount equal to the cost of the production and distribution of the license plates is deposited into the SHF, which is Other Funds of DOT. DMV indicates that it costs \$5.53 and \$4.42 to produce and distribute a special license plate for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles, respectively. The remaining \$54.47 and \$55.58 of the \$60 fee will be distributed to the SHF.

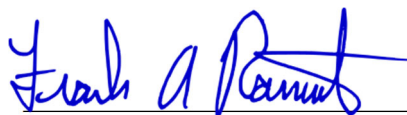
The increase in Other Funds revenue of DOT, Other Funds revenue of DMV, and Other Funds revenue of the SCTIB will depend upon the number of blackout special license plates that are requested.

### **Local Expenditure**

N/A

### **Local Revenue**

N/A



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