

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2655

Ordered by the House May 17
Including House Amendments dated May 17

Sponsored by Representative P SMITH (at the request of Keep Oregon Green)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Allows Department of Transportation to issue group plate for group that promotes prevention [*and suppression*] of wildfires. Directs **State Forestry** Department to seek federal approval of use of image of Smokey Bear on group plates.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to group registration plates; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 805.205.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 805.205 is amended to read:

5 805.205. (1) The Department of Transportation by rule shall provide for issuance of registration
6 plates described in subsection (3) of this section for nonprofit groups meeting the qualifications for
7 tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for institutions of higher
8 education and for veterans' organizations. The department shall also provide, upon request from a
9 veterans' group or the Director of Veterans' Affairs, for issuance of a veterans' recognition regis-
10 tration plate that may be issued only to veterans. Plates issued under this section may be issued to
11 owners of motor vehicles registered under the provisions of ORS 803.420 (1). Plates issued under
12 this section may not contain expressions of political opinion or religious belief. Rules adopted under
13 this section shall include, but need not be limited to, rules that:

14 (a) Describe general qualifications to be met by any group in order to be eligible for plates is-
15 sued under this section.

16 (b) Specify circumstances under which the department may cease to issue plates for any partic-
17 ular group.

18 (c) Require each group for which plates are issued, other than a group or the Director of Vet-
19 erans' Affairs requesting a veterans' recognition plate, to file an annual statement on a form de-
20 signed by the department showing that the group is a nonprofit group or **is** an institution of higher
21 education and **that the group** otherwise meets the qualifications imposed for eligibility for plates
22 issued under this section. The statement shall include names and addresses of current directors or
23 officers of the group or of other persons authorized to speak for the group or institution on matters
24 affecting plates issued under this section.

25 (d) Require proof of veteran status for issuance of a veterans' recognition plate and specify what
26 constitutes proof.

27 (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, in addition to any other
28 fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section and upon renewal of registration

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 for a vehicle that has plates issued under this section, the department shall collect a surcharge of
2 \$2.50 per plate for each year of the registration period.

3 (b) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section
4 *[that]* **for a group that promotes the prevention of wildfires or that** recognizes an institution
5 of higher education in this state, and upon renewal of registration for a vehicle that has such plates,
6 the department shall collect a surcharge of \$8 per plate for each year of the registration period.

7 (3) Plates issued under this section shall be from the current regular issue of plates except that:

8 (a) In consultation with the group or the Director of Veterans' Affairs requesting the plates, the
9 department shall add words to the plate that name or describe the group or veterans recognized.

10 (b) If the group or the Director of Veterans' Affairs requesting the plates represents persons
11 who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal, the plates shall contain an image of the medal.

12 (c) If the group requesting the plates is an institution of higher education, the plates shall, upon
13 request, contain words that indicate the plates are issued to recognize the institution or shall con-
14 tain the institution's logo or an image of the institution's mascot.

15 **(d) If the group requesting the plates promotes the prevention of wildfires, the plates**
16 **shall contain words that promote the prevention of wildfires in Oregon and have an image**
17 **of Smokey Bear. Only plates with an image of Smokey Bear may be used to promote the**
18 **prevention of wildfires in Oregon. All fees required to be paid for use of the image of Smokey**
19 **Bear shall be paid by the group requesting the plates that promote the prevention of**
20 **wildfires. If the department determines at any time that use of the image of Smokey Bear**
21 **is not authorized by the federal government, the department may not issue any plates with**
22 **the image of Smokey Bear.**

23 (4) Except as otherwise required by the design chosen, the plates shall comply with the re-
24 quirements of ORS 803.535. The department shall determine how many sets of plates shall be man-
25 ufactured for each group approved under this section or for the Director of Veterans' Affairs. If the
26 department does not sell or issue renewal for 500 sets of plates for a particular group or for the
27 Director of Veterans' Affairs in any one year, the department shall cease production of those plates.

28 (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this section, each group that is found by
29 the department to be eligible for plates issued under this section may designate an account into
30 which the net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department under subsection (2) of this
31 section are to be deposited. The department shall keep accurate records of the number of plates is-
32 sued for each group that qualifies. After payment of administrative expenses of the department,
33 moneys collected under this section for each group shall be deposited by the department into an
34 account specified by that group. If any group does not specify an account for the moneys collected
35 from the sale of plates issued under this section, the department shall deposit moneys collected for
36 those plates into the Environmental Quality Information Account established under ORS 802.100 to
37 be used as other moneys in the account are used. Deposits under this subsection shall be made at
38 least quarterly.

39 (6)(a) Each institution of higher education that requests a plate under this section shall desig-
40 nate an account in the general fund of the institution, and the proceeds in the account shall be used
41 for the purpose of academic enrichment at the institution.

42 (b) Net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department for the veterans' recognition plate
43 shall be deposited in the trust fund established under ORS 406.050 for paying the expenses of oper-
44 ating the Oregon Veterans' Home. Deposits under this paragraph shall be made at least quarterly.

45 **(c) Net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department for a group that promotes**

1 the prevention of wildfires shall be deposited in an account designated by the Keep Oregon
2 Green Association and shall be used for paying the expenses of promoting the prevention of
3 wildfires in Oregon. Deposits under this paragraph shall be made at least quarterly. At any
4 time that the department determines that the account designated by the Keep Oregon Green
5 Association ceases to exist, the department may no longer issue a plate with the image of
6 Smokey Bear.

7 SECTION 2. The State Forestry Department, in collaboration with the Keep Oregon
8 Green Association, shall apply to the federal government for permission to use the image of
9 Smokey Bear on registration plates for groups that promote the prevention of wildfires.

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