

ACT 326

S.B. NO. 1943

A Bill for an Act Relating to Motor Vehicles.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Chapter 249, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§249- Special number plates; design and issuance by counties. (a) Beginning January 1, 1998, in lieu of the number plates contracted on behalf of the counties by the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu, the county directors of finance, by the affirmative vote of the majority, may authorize the issuance of special number plates to any organization or institution in the State that meets the minimum standards and qualifications established under rules adopted in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu, in consultation with the directors of finance of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii, shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 to:

- (1) Establish application procedures and eligibility standards for organizations or institutions seeking special number plates under this section;
- (2) Establish special design parameters and restrictions for decals or graphic representations affixable to special number plates; and
- (3) Set reasonable charges and fees for the recovery of administrative costs incurred as the result of the issuance of special number plates under this section.”

SECTION 2. Section 249-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§249-9 Number plates; purchase. (a) The number plates hereinabove referred to shall be used upon all vehicles for which a tax has been paid pursuant to sections 249-1 to 249-13. All such plates shall [bear]:

- (1) Bear the word “Hawaii”[, shall have] along the upper portion of the plate and the words “Aloha State” along the lower portion of the plate;
- (2) Have a distinct contrast between the color of the plate and the numerals and letters thereon[.]; and [shall be]
- (3) Be of such shape, size, and color, and with such arrangements of letters and numbers as may, subject to sections 249-1 to 249-13, be determined by the directors of finance of each county through majority consent.

The numerals on all such plates shall be not less than three inches in height and the strokes thereof not less than three-eighths inch in width, except in the case of motorcycles, in which case the numerals shall not be less than one inch in height and the strokes thereof not less than one-eighth inch in width.

The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu shall contract annually on behalf of the counties for the purchase of all number plates, tags, or emblems required. The council of each county shall appropriate and cause to be paid over to the party with whom the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu shall contract, or to the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu as the director may direct, such sum or sums as the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu shall determine to be the county’s proportionate share of the expense of such contract and the charges connected therewith. The contract shall be made by the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu

as agent of the several counties, and the proportionate liability of each county shall be stated in the contract. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the contract shall constitute a valid obligation of each county for its proportionate share.

(b) The number plates for members of the Congress of the United States from the State shall designate their office and be of the type and color authorized for motor vehicles in the State; provided that the number on the plates of the United States senator and the United States representative shall be assigned in terms of seniority of service with the senator or representative having the greater length of service having the number "1" and consecutively thereafter for the others. The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu shall, in the director's procurement of the number plates on behalf of the counties, contract for the number plates of the members of Congress and all expenses connected therewith shall be paid by the respective members of Congress.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, any antique motor vehicle shall be issued a special number plate for a fee of \$10 which plate shall be permanent and valid for use on such vehicles so long as the vehicle is in existence in lieu of the uniform state number plates. In addition to the payment of any other fee required by law, applicable to antique motor vehicles, the owner of any such vehicle shall pay the fee for the issuance of the special¹ number² plate. The registration numerals and special number plates assigned to antique motor vehicles shall be labeled "Horseless Carriage" and "Permanent" and shall run in a separate numerical series, commencing with Horseless Carriage No. 1."

SECTION 3. Section 249-9.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§249-9.2 Special number plates; military service. (a) In lieu of the number plates contracted on behalf of the counties by the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu, the director of finance shall provide for a fee, one set of special number plates upon the receipt of an application together with:

- (1) Specific proof that the applicant was awarded the Purple Heart by the United States Department of Defense for wounds received in military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States;
- (2) Certification that the applicant is a veteran; [or]
- (3) Specific proof that the applicant was providing military service to the United States, on Oahu, or off-shore at a distance of not more than three miles at the time of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. Certification from the Hawaii state chairperson of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association shall constitute sufficient proof[.];
- [[(4)] Specific proof that the applicant was confined as a prisoner of war while providing military service to the United States[.]; or
- (5) Certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the state office of veterans' services that the applicant is a combat veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam conflict or the Korean conflict or World War II.

- (b) The design of the plates for [purple]:
 - (1) Purple heart recipients shall include the words "COMBAT WOUNDED"[, the design of the plates for veterans];
 - (2) Veterans shall include the word "VETERAN"[, the design of the plates for the];
 - (3) Pearl Harbor survivors shall include the words "PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR"[, and the design of the plates for former];
 - (4) Former prisoners of war shall include the words "FORMER PRISONER OF WAR"[.];

- (5) Combat veterans shall include the words “COMBAT VETERAN”;
- (6) Veterans of the Vietnam conflict shall include the words “VIETNAM VETERAN”;
- (7) Veterans of the Korean conflict shall include the words “KOREA VETERAN”; and
- (8) Veterans of World War II shall include the words “WORLD WAR II VETERAN”;

These designations shall be imprinted on the left side of the license plates in a manner similar to congressional and honorary consul license plates.

(c) Registration certificates and license plates issued under this section shall not be transferable to any other person [and shall be limited to only one vehicle for each qualified applicant]. Special number plates for military service shall be assigned to only one noncommercial passenger motor vehicle or one noncommercial motorcycle or motor scooter registered in the name of the qualified applicant and shall be limited to only one category of special number plates for military service; provided that, if the qualified applicant is the registered owner of a noncommercial passenger motor vehicle and a noncommercial motorcycle or motor scooter, a second special number plate for military service of the same or different category may be assigned to the qualified applicant’s motorcycle or motor scooter. Prior to the transfer of the ownership of the qualified person’s vehicle to another party, the special¹ number² plates shall be surrendered to the director of finance as a condition to the issuance of replacement¹ special number³ plates, provided that the director of finance shall allow the survivor of the qualified person, upon request, to retain the front special¹ number² plate as a memorial.

(d) The director of finance shall authorize the design of a license plate that is readily identifiable and distinguishable under actual traffic conditions and shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to carry out this section.’’

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.⁴

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 30, 1997.)

Notes

1. Prior to amendment “license” appeared here.
2. “Number” should be underscored.
3. “Special number” should be underscored.
4. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.