

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB691**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 05, 2019  
**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Introducer:** Cavanaugh  
**One Liner:** Provide for Ornate Box Turtle Conservation license plates

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Indefinitely postponed

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hilgers, Hughes

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Machaela Cavanaugh  
Michael O'Hara  
Timothy McCoy  
Bruce Kennedy  
Marjorie Kennedy

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Sierra Club  
NE Game & Parks Commission  
NE Wildlife Federation  
Wachiska Audubon

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 691 would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to design and issue specialty license plates known as Ornate Box Turtle Conservation Plates. The DMV would create no more than three designs of the plate reflecting support for the conservation of Ornate Box Turtles

Two types of plates would be issued by the department, one an alphanumeric plate, which would cost \$5, and a personalized message plate, with a maximum of five characters, which would cost \$40. Fees for the alphanumeric plate and \$30 from the personalized plate would be remitted to the Game and Parks Turtle Habitat Fund, which is created in Section 1 of the bill. The Game and Parks Commission would use the fund to develop and support turtle habitat programs. Ten dollars from the sale of message plates would be remitted to the DMV Cash Fund.

Each design would be selected on the basis of limiting the manufacturing cost of each plate to an amount less than or equal to the amount charged for the issuance of license plates, which is currently a maximum of \$3.50 per plate.

Plates could be issued beginning January 1, 2020. The plates could be delivered by mail from the DMV or delivered by the DMV to the county treasurer in which the applicant resides, where they could be issued. Only vehicles part of a fleet would be ineligible to have such plates. Owners of farm trucks, trailers, semitrailers, and other vehicles could be issued

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the plates, but they would be required to have the appropriate tonnage decal, if applicable. The plates could be transferred to other vehicles for the normal charge of \$3. If the plates are lost, stolen, or mutilated, replacement plates could be reissued for the normal fee of \$2.50 per plate.

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Curt Friesen, Chairperson