

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)**  
**LB568**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 04, 2025  
**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Introducer:** Fredrickson  
**One Liner:** Provide for Arbor Day Plates and the Home of Arbor Day Plate Cash Fund and change provisions relating to license plates

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Ballard, Bosn, Brandt, DeBoer, Fredrickson, Guereca, Moser, Storer  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator John Fredrickson  
Hanna Pinneo  
Karen Pesek

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum  
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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

LB 568 creates the Arbor Day license plate. The plate is to be designed in consultation with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire people to plant and nurture trees. In addition to all other registration fees, an applicant shall pay a fee of forty dollars. Twenty-five percent of the fee is deposited to the Department of Motor Vehicles CASH Fund and seventy-five percent of the fee will be deposited to the Arbor Day Plate Cash Fund, which is to be used to promote tree planting, garden making, and related activities.

Additionally, LB568 reorganizes "specialty plates", incorporating them into the category of "organizational plates" and creates a new category of "alternate plates".

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee considered and adopted an amendment which accomplishes the following

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Incorporates the provisions of LB134 as amended, LB 343, and LB 563 as amended.

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LB 134 provides that the fees for "Disabled Veterans", "Prisoner of War", and "Purple Heart" license plates are waived. A trust whose beneficiary is a veteran will be authorized to apply for the relevant veteran's plate. The Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating threshold to receive a "Disabled Veteran" plate is lowered from one hundred percent to ten percent. The "United States Space Force" is added to the listing of eligible organizations for purposes of the Military Honor License Plate. The Committee Amendment allows the option of a vanity license plate for Military Honor Plates.

Testifiers on LB134:

Proponents:

Senator Rick Holdcroft , Opening Presenter

Amanda Vazquez, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Opponents: None

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB134: Yes - 8; No - 0; Absent - 0; Present Not Voting - 0;

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LB 343 changes the fee for the entire field of specialty license plates fees from seventy dollars to forty dollars effective October 1, 2025.

Testifiers on LB343:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Brandt , Opening Presenter

Steve Ebke, Nebraska Corn Growers Association Ag Leaders Working Group

Opponents: None

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB343: Yes - 8; No - 0; Absent - 0; Present Not Voting - 0;

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LB 563 creates a new permanent license plate for commercial fertilizer trailers and creates an issuance and renewal fee of one dollar. The Committee Amendment removes the option of the Department of Motor Vehicles to deliver permanent license plates for fertilizer trailers by mail.

Testifiers on LB563:

Proponents:

Senator Tom Brandt , Opening Presenter

Allan Zumpfe, Farmers Cooperative

Cody Lightwine, Norder Supply

Adam Feser, Nebraska Cooperative Council

Scott Merritt, Nebraska Agri-Business Association



Opponents: None

Neutral: None

Committee vote to attach LB563: Yes - 8; No - 0; Absent - 0; Present Not Voting - 0;

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Finally, the Committee Amendment provides that the Arbor Day License Plate will be available for issuance on January 1, 2026.

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### Summary of Sections

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Sections 1 through 4 and 26 through 32 – Incorporate section 25 of this act in sections 37-112, 37-327.03, 37-327.0, 37-811, 60-495, 80-415, 80-416, 80-417, 81-2517, 82-139, and 82-334.

Section 5 – Amends 60-301 – Motor Vehicle Registration Act

Sections 60-301 to 60-3,236 and sections 7, 23, 24, and 25 are to be know as the Motor Vehicle Registration Act.

Section 6 – Includes section 7 of the present act in the definitions of the Motor Vehicle Registration Act.

Section 7 - Defines commercial fertilizer trailer Defines commercial fertilizer trailer as a fertilizer trailer that is owned by an entity that sells agricultural fertilizer or chemicals.

Sections 8 through 10 – Amend sections 60-393, 60-395, and 60-60-396

Groups 60-3,104.01 (previously specialty license plates), 60-3,121 (personalized message license plates), 60-3,122.02 (Gold Star Family Plates, 60-3,122.04 (Military Honor Plates), 60-3,135.01 (special interest motor vehicle license plates), and sections 24 and 25 of this act in the same category.

Section 11 - Defines alternate license plates Defines what types of license plates qualify as 'alternate license plates', including Nebraska History Plates and Pets for Vets Plates. 'Support Our Troops Plates' would have a fee of five dollars, increasing to seventy dollars with a personalized message. Fees collected related to the 'The Good Life Is Outside' plates are to be credited to the Game and Parks State Park Improvement Fund for the purpose of trail improvement and maintenance. Fees collected relating to 'Wildlife Conservation' plates are to be credited to the Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Section 12 - Amends section 60-3,104 - Types of license plates Adds permanent trailer license plates to the types of plates available from the DMV.

Sections 13 and 14 – Removes language relating to 'specialty plates', relying instead on the term 'organizational plates'. It changes the fee to forty dollars for all of those plates.

Section 15 - Amends 60-3,113 – Wheelchair symbol



Directs the DMV to maintain a registry of the names, addresses, and license numbers of people who obtain license plates with the internationally accepted wheelchair symbol.

Section 16 - Amends section 60-3,122.03 - Military Honor Plates

Adds the United States Space Force to the list of US military organizations and may begin issuing plates with the design honoring those who serve or served in it on January 1, 2026. It creates plates with the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, available on January 1, 2026. It directs the DMV to create man additional Military Honor Plate design that includes the word 'veteran' and a design that includes both that word and the internationally accepted wheelchair symbol. Plates with both the word 'veteran' and the internationally accepted wheelchair symbol require proof of disability described in section 60-3,113.02 and any certification of such handicap shall be certified as permanent.

Section 17 – Amends section 60-3,122.04 – Military Honor Plates

The plates described in section 16 of this act will be available to veterans who are permanently disabled and trusts whose beneficiaries are veteran that are permanently disabled.

Section 18 - Amends section 60-3,123 - Prisoner of war plates

Waives the fee for a prisoner of war plate with valid application.

Section 19 - Amends section 60-3,124 - Disabled veterans plates

Changes the requirement to obtain a disabled veteran plate from a Department of Veterans Affairs disability classification of 100 percent to a classification of 10 percent. Prior to January 1, 2026, the department will issue license plates and required validation decals for any registration renewal. Beginning January 1, 2026, veterans classified with a 10 percent or greater service-related disability may apply for a plate with the words 'disabled veteran' on the plate. License plate fees for these applicants are waived. The applicant must provide proof handicap or disability and it just be certified as permanent.

Section 20 - Amends section 603,125 - Purple Heart Plates Beginning January 1, 2026, Purple Heart plates must include the words 'Purple Heart' and 'Combat Wounded'. Trusts whose beneficiaries qualify for Purple Heart plates are eligible to apply for these plates. The fee for such plates is waived, assuming DMV status verification. Applicants must also meet the requirements of section 60-3,113.02, which details the requirements for parking permits for handicapped or disabled persons, providing that such handicap or disability is permanent.

Section 21 – Removes language relating to “specialty license plates”, replaces it with “organizational license plates”, and adds language relating to “alternate license plates”.

Section 22 - Amends 60-3,151 - Permanent commercial fertilizer plates

On payment of one dollar, the DMV shall issue to the owner of a commercial fertilizer trailer a permanent license plate. The department can send the plates by mail and charge a postage and handling fee. The plate must be affixed to the rear of the trailer and any transfer of ownership renders it invalid, to be accompanied by return of the plate to the DMV. Renewal and replacement fees for plates and certificates would be one dollar.

Registration fees for recreational vehicles weighing less than eight thousand pounds will be eighteen dollars. Registration fees for recreational vehicles weighing between eight thousand pounds but less than twelve thousand pounds will be thirty dollars. Registration fees for recreational vehicles weighing over twelve thousand pounds will be forty-two dollars. Recreational vehicle license plates shall be the same size and basic design as regular license plates.



Sections 23 and 24 - Alternate license plates

Amend sections 60-3,253 and 60-3,254 to creates a new category of license plates known as 'alternate license plates'.

Section 25 - Defines plates identified as 'alternate license plates'

'Alternate license plates' include 'Arbor Day Plates', 'Breast Cancer Awareness Plates', 'Choose Life License Plates', 'Czech Heritage Plates', 'Donate Life Plates', and others.

Section 33 - Home of Arbor Day Plate Cash Fund

The Arbor Day Plate Cash Fund is created, administered by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska. Funds are raised through the fees associated with 'Arbor Day Plates' and are to be used for the purposes of tree planting, garden making, community building and environmental education and outreach.

Section 34 and 35 repeal original sections of certain statutes and outright repeal other statutes.

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Mike Moser, Chairperson

