



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2145

historic federal highway; special plates

Purpose

Creates special plates for historical federal highway preservation and first responders and the respective funds in statute.

Background

The Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) provides one license plate to every motor vehicle owner for each vehicle registered (A.R.S. § 28-2351). Vehicle license plates display both the name of the state, as well as a number assigned to the vehicle and the owner. License plates must be clearly visible and displayed on the rear of the vehicle (A.R.S. § 28-2354).

In addition to regular Arizona vehicle license plates, MVD issues special license plates for a variety of causes and organizations. Currently, over 50 special license plates are available to the public. Several of the plates are limited to those that meet certain qualifications.

The fee for obtaining or renewing a special license plate is \$25 (A.R.S. § 28-2402). From the \$25 fee, typically, \$8 is an administration fee that ADOT deposits in the State Highway Fund (SHF) and \$17 is considered a donation to the respective organization or charitable fund.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Allows ADOT, dependent upon the payment of the \$32,000 implementation fee by December 31, 2016, to issue the:
  - a) historical federal highway preservation special plate; and
  - b) first responder special plate.
2. Requires the entity that provides the \$32,000 implementation fee to design the historical federal highway preservation special plate, subject to ADOT approval.
3. Specifies that, of the \$25 fee required for the original special license plates and subsequent renewals, \$8 is an administration fee and \$17 is an annual donation. ADOT is required to deposit all administration fees into the SHF and all annual donations into the respective fund for that plate.

4. Stipulates that first \$32,000 in each respective fund must be reimbursed to the entity that paid the implementation fee.
5. Institutes a fund for each special license plate and requires the Director to administer the fund. Monies are continuously appropriated and exempt from lapsing.
6. Requires the State Treasurer, on notice from the Director, to invest and divest monies in the Fund and requires monies earned from investment to be credited to the Fund.
7. Allows the Director to combine a request for a historical federal highway preservation special plate with a request for a personalized special plate, subject to the additional fees for personalized special plates.

***Historical Federal Highway Preservation Special Plates Fund***

8. Requires the Director to annually distribute all monies in the Fund, excluding administrative fees, to a foundation that satisfies the following requirements:
  - a) is comprised of only volunteers;
  - b) has been in existence for at least 30 years;
  - c) is dedicated to its mission to preserve, protect and promote a federal highway that is in this state;
  - d) has contributed efforts that resulted in this state's segment of the federal highway being designated as a historic road and a national scenic byway and in the highway attaining all-American road status;
  - e) assists all communities in this state along the federal highway with preservation and marketing projects; and
  - f) is a charitable organization that is qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code for federal income tax purposes.
9. Stipulates that not more than 10 percent of the monies deposited in the Fund annually can be used for the cost of administering the Historical Federal Highway Preservation Special Plate Fund.

***First Responder Special Plates Fund***

10. Requires the Director to annually distribute all monies in the Fund, excluding administrative fees, to a foundation that satisfies the following requirements:
  - a) offers financial and emotional support, peer training and professional referral services to families of public safety officers and firefighters who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty;
  - b) offers scholarships to family members of public safety officers and firefighters;
  - c) has been in existence for over 45 years; and
  - d) is a charitable organization that is qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the United States IRC for federal income tax purposes.

*Miscellaneous*

11. Makes technical and conforming changes.
12. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

1. Creates a First Responder special plate if \$32,000 is paid for its implementation to ADOT by December 31, 2016.
2. Requires the person that provides the \$32,000 implementation fee to design the First Responder special plate, subject to ADOT approval.
3. Establishes the First Responder Special Plates Fund (Fund). The Director of the Department of Transportation (Director) shall administer the Fund. The first \$32,000 in the Fund must be reimbursed to the person that paid the implementation fee. Not more than 10 percent of the monies deposited in the Fund annually can be used for the cost of administering the Fund. Monies in the Fund are continuously appropriated.
4. Requires the Director to annually distribute all monies in the Fund, excluding administrative fees, to a foundation that satisfies the following requirements:
  - a) offers financial and emotional support, peer training and professional referral services to families of public safety officers and firefighters who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty;
  - b) offers scholarships to family members of public safety officers and firefighters;
  - c) has been in existence for over 45 years; and
  - d) is a charitable organization that is qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the United States IRC for federal income tax purposes.
5. Allows the Director to combine a request for a First Responder special plate with a request for a personalized special plate. If the Director allows the combination, the request is subject to the additional fees for personalized special plates.
6. Specifies that, of the \$25 fee required for the original First Responder special plate and subsequent renewals, \$8 is an administration fee and \$17 is an annual donation. ADOT is required to deposit all administration fees into the SHF and all annual donations into the Fund.
7. Requires the State Treasurer, on notice from the Director, to invest and divest monies in the Fund. Monies earned from investment are credited to the Fund.
8. Makes technical and conforming changes.

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House Action

TI                    2/9/16    DP    8-1-0-0  
3<sup>rd</sup> Read            3/1/16                    46-12-2

Senate Action

TRANS            3/15/16    DPA    8-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research

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