

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1857

Amendment Number: H1

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE ACT OF 2005 CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION AND ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR AND IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Basic Change :

Representatives Shepherd, Copenhaver

Amendment 1: - Amendment 1 adds and provides that additional people are eligible for the certified law enforcement plate. These additional persons are a prosecuting attorney, a deputy prosecuting attorney, an officer of the Department of Correction, or an officer of the Department of Community Correction.

The bill creates a new revenue fund, the Fallen Law Enforcement Officer's Beneficiary Fund to be used by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training and creates three new special license plates; adds new definitions to the code to define "Certified law enforcement officer" and "Law enforcement agency"; and creates three (3) new special license plates, a new plate for certified law enforcement officers, a Support Law Enforcement license plate, and an Arkansas Sheriffs Association plate.

Revenue Impact :

Unknown increases in the State Central Services Fund, the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers' Beneficiary Fund, the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Cash Fund, and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association, depending on how many vehicle owners choose to register the vehicles with the new plates.

Taxpayer Impact :

Certified Law Enforcement Officers as defined in the bill can register their vehicles to support the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers' Beneficiary Fund, the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy Cash Fund, and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association.

Resources Required :

A supply of each new plate must be acquired and maintained.

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided.

Procedural Changes :

Program the motor vehicle system for the new plates. Revise Motor Vehicle Procedures Manual and distribute to Revenue Offices.

Other Comments :

None

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Legal Analysis :

HB1857, as amended, expands the list of individuals that may qualify as a "certified law enforcement officer" entitled to receive the special license plate created for certified law enforcement officers. The bill now provides that a prosecuting attorney, a deputy prosecuting attorney, an officer of the Department of Correction, or an officer of the Department of Community Correction may also qualify as a "certified law enforcement officer" entitled to obtain the special license plate created for certified law enforcement officers.

The bill states that to be issued a special plate, the individual must provide proof that he or she is a certified law enforcement officer as that term is defined in the bill. The bill defines "certified law enforcement officer" to mean "any appointed or elected law enforcement officer or county sheriff employed by a law enforcement agency who:

- (i) is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the criminal, traffic, or highway laws of this state; and
- (ii) has met the selection and training requirements for certification set by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

Because of the use of the word "and," the additional persons eligible to obtain the special plate would have to provide proof that they had met the selection and training requirements for certification set by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training. Prosecuting attorneys and deputy prosecuting attorneys do not generally complete this training. Therefore, they would not have the requisite proof to obtain the license.

The bill, as amended, also includes additional sponsors of the bill.