

SENATE BILL NO. 1061

November 07, 2024, Introduced by Senators MCBROOM and CHANG and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 803m (MCL 257.803m), as amended by 2003 PA 152.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 803m. (1) The secretary of state may issue 2 special
2 organization motor vehicle registration plates to an applicant for
3 use on a passenger motor vehicle, pickup truck, van, or motor home
4 for which the plates are issued instead of standard plates. A
5 special organization motor vehicle registration plate is a
6 registration plate issued by the secretary of state that bears on

1 its face the symbol or emblem of an organization.

2 (2) ~~Special~~ **Subject to this subsection, special** organization
3 plates ~~shall~~ **must** bear letters and numbers as the secretary of
4 state prescribes. Special organization plates may contain the
5 symbol of the organization to the left of the plate number. ~~The~~
6 ~~secretary of state shall not issue a letter combination or permit~~
7 ~~the use of a symbol which might carry a connotation offensive to~~
8 ~~good taste and decency.~~ The special organization plates ~~shall~~ **must**
9 be made of the same material as standard plates. Special
10 organization plates ~~shall~~ **must** not be a duplication of ~~duplicate~~
11 another registration plate. **Special organization plates must not**
12 **bear a configuration of letters, numbers, or letters and numbers**
13 **that conflicts with the regular license plate numbering system or**
14 **is any of the following:**

- 15 (a) Carrying a connotation that is profane or obscene.
16 (b) A swear word or the depiction of a swear word.
17 (c) Sexually explicit or graphic.
18 (d) Excretory-related.
19 (e) Used to describe an intimate body part or genitals.
20 (f) Used to describe alcohol, alcohol use, drugs, drug
21 culture, or drug use.
22 (g) Used to describe an illegal activity or illegal substance.
23 (h) Used to substantially interfere with plate identification
24 for law enforcement purposes.
25 (i) Used to disparage or promote or condone hate or violence
26 directed at any type of business, group, or persons.
27 (j) A foreign word that is substantially similar to a
28 configuration not permitted under subdivisions (a) to (i).

29 (3) In order to qualify its members to receive special

1 organization plates, an organization ~~shall~~**must** meet all of the
2 following criteria:

3 (a) Be a nonprofit fraternal or public service organization.

4 (b) Certify that it consists of not less than 500 members and
5 that not less than 500 members will apply for special organization
6 registration plates.

7 (c) Have a recognizable state, national, or international
8 symbol or emblem of the organization.

9 (d) Submit a service fee of \$500.00 for the initial
10 manufacture of the symbols or emblems for the special registration
11 plates.

12 (e) Not practice or influence others to practice any form of
13 discrimination prohibited by the Elliott-Larsen civil rights act,
14 1976 PA 453, MCL 37.2101 to 37.2804.

15 (4) If an organization meets the criteria set forth in
16 subsection (3), the organization may request the secretary of state
17 to manufacture special organization registration plates for its
18 members. A request ~~shall~~**must** be accompanied by all of the
19 following:

20 (a) A copy of the organization's charter and bylaws, if any.

21 (b) A statement of the organization's consent to use of the
22 organization's symbol or emblem on special organization plates. The
23 statement ~~shall~~**must** be signed by the president or chief executive
24 officer of the organization.

25 (c) A sample of the organization's symbol or emblem.

26 (d) The name of the organization's representative who will
27 serve as a contact person with the secretary of state.

28 (5) A member of an organization ~~which~~**that** has met the
29 criteria set forth in subsection (3) shall individually ~~make~~

1 ~~application~~**apply** for a special organization plate and submit with
2 the application the organization's confirmation of membership on a
3 form provided by the secretary of state.

4 (6) An application for a special organization registration
5 plate ~~shall~~**must** be submitted to the secretary of state pursuant to
6 the procedures prescribed in section 217. In addition to the
7 regular registration fee, each application for a new special
8 organization plate ~~shall~~**must** be accompanied by a service fee of
9 \$25.00. The service fee ~~prescribed in~~**under** this subsection ~~shall~~
10 **must** not be charged in connection with an application for a renewal
11 tab for an existing special organization plate. A special
12 organization registration plate ~~shall expire~~**expires** as provided in
13 section 226.

14 (7) The secretary of state may issue a temporary registration
15 permit to a person who submits an application and the proper fees
16 for a special organization plate, if the applicant's current
17 vehicle registration will expire before ~~his or her~~**the applicant's**
18 receipt of an organization plate. The temporary registration ~~shall~~
19 ~~expire~~**expires** upon the applicant's receipt of an organization
20 plate or upon the expiration of 60 days after the date of issuance,
21 whichever occurs first. A temporary permit issued under this
22 subsection ~~shall~~**must** be issued without charge.

23 ~~(8) This section shall apply to an organization described in~~
24 ~~section 811c only to the extent provided by section 811c.~~

25 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
26 unless Senate Bill No. 1060 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted
27 into law.