



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 5024 Amended by House Education and Public Works on March 21, 2024
Author: Elliott
Subject: National Guard License Plates
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Griffith
Impact Date: March 25, 2024

Fiscal Impact Summary

This amended bill specifies that, upon the death of a member of the National Guard, a surviving spouse may apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a National Guard license plate or may apply to transfer a license plate previously issued to a member of the National Guard. The amended bill also authorizes DMV to issue “Autistic and Neurodivergent” special license plates and “South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation” special license plates. DMV anticipates that the bill will have no expenditure impact to the agency as any changes can be managed within existing appropriations.

The amended bill will increase Other Funds revenue of the Department of Transportation (DOT) by at least \$6,800 in FY 2024-25 since the “South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation” special license plate is subject to the provisions of Section 56-3-8100. The bill will also increase General Fund revenue, Other Funds revenue of DMV, Other Funds revenue of the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank (SCTIB), and it will further increase Other Funds revenue of DOT. However, the amount of the increase is undetermined because both the number of new special license plates and the number of National Guard members’ surviving spouses who will apply for or transfer a National Guard plate is unknown.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by House Education and Public Works on March 21, 2024

State Expenditure

This amended bill specifies that, upon the death of a member of the National Guard, a surviving spouse may apply to DMV for a National Guard license plate or may apply to transfer a license plate previously issued to a member of the National Guard. In addition, DMV is authorized to issue “Autistic and Neurodivergent” special license plates to registrants who are autistic or neurodivergent or who are parents of children who are autistic or neurodivergent. Further, DMV is authorized to issue “South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation” special license plates. DMV anticipates that the bill will have no expenditure impact to the agency as any changes can be managed within existing appropriations.

State Revenue

This amended bill specifies that, upon the death of a member of the National Guard, a surviving spouse may apply to DMV for a National Guard license plate or may apply to transfer a license plate previously issued to a member of the National Guard. National Guard- Army, National Guard- Air, and National Guard- Retired license plates are subject to the regular biennial motor vehicle registration fee set forth in Article 5, Chapter 3, Title 56. The amended bill also specifies that DMV may issue “Autistic and Neurodivergent” and “South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation” special license plates, which are also subject to the regular biennial motor vehicle registration fee. The amount of the registration fee varies by age and handicap status of the individual registrant, type and weight of vehicle, and designation of private-passenger or property-carrying.

For the transfer of any license plate, DMV reports that the agency charges a \$10 fee, of which \$3 is remitted to the General Fund. It is unknown how many surviving spouses of a National Guard member will apply for or transfer a National Guard license plate. Therefore, the increase in General Fund revenue is undetermined.

Pursuant to Section 56-3-260, \$16 of each biennial registration fee is currently credited to the Infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund, which is Other Funds of DOT. Additionally, \$7 of each transfer fee is placed in the State Highway Fund, which is Other Funds of DOT. Additionally, pursuant to 56-3-1230, \$2 of each biennial fee is currently credited to the Plate Replacement Fund, which is Other Funds of DMV. Further, the remainder of each registration fee is placed into the state highway account of the SCTIB pursuant to Section 56-3-910. It is unknown how many surviving spouses of a National Guard member will apply for or transfer a National Guard license plate. It is also unknown how many drivers will request “Autistic and Neurodivergent” and “South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation” special license plates. Therefore, the increase in Other Funds revenue of DOT, Other Funds revenue of DMV, and Other Funds revenue of the SCTIB is undetermined. For reference, as of December 1, 2023, there were 3,257 active National Guard licenses plate registrations.

An additional fee of \$25 for the “South Carolina Association for Pupil Transportation” is distributed to the association of the same name. This special license plate is subject to the provisions of Section 56-3-8100, which requires DMV to receive \$6,800 from the organization seeking issuance of the plate before beginning production and issuance. The full \$6,800 is distributed to the State Highway Fund. Therefore, this portion of the amended bill may increase Other Funds of DOT by at least \$6,800, although the total amount of the increase is undetermined, as explained above.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

Introduced on February 1, 2024

State Expenditure

This bill specifies that, upon the death of a member of the National Guard, a surviving spouse may apply to DMV for a National Guard license plate or may apply to transfer a license plate previously issued to a member of the National Guard. DMV anticipates that the bill will have no expenditure impact to the agency as any changes can be managed within existing appropriations.

State Revenue

This bill specifies that, upon the death of a member of the National Guard, a surviving spouse may apply to DMV for a National Guard license plate or may apply to transfer a license plate previously issued to a member of the National Guard. National Guard- Army, National Guard- Air, and National Guard- Retired license plates are subject to the regular biennial motor vehicle registration fee set forth in Article 5, Chapter 3, Title 56. The amount of the registration fee varies by age and handicap status of the individual registrant, type and weight of vehicle, and designation of private-passenger or property-carrying.

For the transfer of any license plate, DMV reports that the agency charges a \$10 fee, of which \$3 is remitted to the General Fund. It is unknown how many surviving spouses of a National Guard member will apply for or transfer a National Guard license plate. Therefore, the increase in General Fund revenue is undetermined.

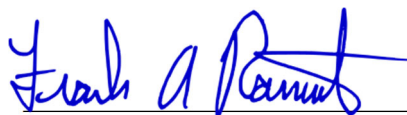
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Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director