

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 410

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; AMENDING SECTION 49-443, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE  
2 THAT A LICENSE PLATE FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE VALID FOR A PE-  
3 RIOD OF TEN YEARS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND AMENDING SEC-  
4 TION 49-443B, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT LICENSE PLATES FOR STATE VEHI-  
5 CLES AND VEHICLES BELONGING TO TAXING DISTRICTS SHALL BE VALID FOR A PE-  
6 RIOD OF TEN YEARS.  
7

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 SECTION 1. That Section 49-443, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 49-443. LICENSE PLATES TO BE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT -- FORM AND  
12 CONTENTS. (1) The assessor or the department shall furnish to every owner  
13 whose vehicle is registered or licensed by that office, pursuant to sections  
14 49-402 and 49-402A, Idaho Code, one (1) license plate for vehicles regis-  
15 tered under the provisions of section 49-406, 49-406A or 49-408, Idaho Code,  
16 or a motorcycle, trailer, truck-tractor, or semitrailer; one (1) restricted  
17 vehicle license plate for all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles and  
18 motorbikes licensed pursuant to this chapter; and two (2) license plates  
19 for every other motor vehicle. If a vehicle is issued one (1) plate only,  
20 that plate shall be displayed in accordance with the provisions of section  
21 49-428, Idaho Code. For vehicles registered under the provisions of section  
22 49-407, Idaho Code, the applicant shall provide one (1) plate to be displayed  
23 on the rear of the vehicle.

24 Commencing January 1, 1992, the color and design of the plates shall be  
25 comparable to the color and design of the statehood centennial issue of li-  
26 cense plates with blue numerals and letters on a multicolored red, white and  
27 blue background. Each license plate must bear upon its face the inscriptions  
28 "Famous Potatoes" and "Scenic Idaho." The restricted vehicle license plate  
29 for all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles and motorbikes shall be a  
30 white background with black numerals and letters, with "Idaho Restricted Ve-  
31 hicle" and the year of its expiration on its face and no other inscription.  
32 The restricted vehicle license plate shall be the same size required for the  
33 motorcycle license plate.

34 Every license plate shall have displayed upon it the registration num-  
35 ber assigned to the vehicle and its owner and the name "Idaho" which may be  
36 abbreviated. The plates issued under the provisions of section 49-402(1),  
37 Idaho Code, and the required letters and numerals, including an identifica-  
38 tion of the county in which the motor vehicle to which the plates will be af-  
39 fixed is registered, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from  
40 a distance of seventy-five (75) feet during daylight, and each license plate  
41 and registration sticker shall be treated with a fully reflectorized mate-  
42 rial according to specifications prescribed by the board.

1 (2) License plates shall be valid for a period of ~~seven ten~~ (710) years  
2 beginning with the date of issuance of new plates. At the end of the ~~sixth~~  
3 ninth year, the registered owner shall receive notice of the date upon which  
4 the plates will expire.

5 For specialty license plate programs discontinued pursuant to the  
6 provisions of section 49-402C, Idaho Code, a registrant with a specialty  
7 license plate currently registered under the program may use such license  
8 plate for up to ~~seven ten~~ (710) years from the date of issuance. This provi-  
9 sion is intended to permit the use of the specialty plate by the registrant  
10 regardless of the number of persons who purchase the specialty plate. The  
11 registrant shall be required to pay the special plate program fees provided  
12 for specialty plates pursuant to this chapter. Such fees shall be deposited  
13 into the state highway account. For purposes of section 49-434, Idaho Code,  
14 as it applies to commercial vehicles, and section 49-435, Idaho Code, the  
15 department shall provide new plates bearing the same number or, upon request  
16 from the registered owner, the next available number.

17 (3) If a license plate number has expired as provided in subsection (2)  
18 of this section and is not renewed within sixty (60) days of its expiration,  
19 the plate number shall be available for use by another registrant. To obtain  
20 a specific number in the recycled license plate number file, the owner of a  
21 registered vehicle may contact the county regarding availability.

22 The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to vehicles regis-  
23 tered under the provisions of section 49-402(1), Idaho Code, and section  
24 49-434(1), Idaho Code, as it applies to noncommercial vehicles.

25 (4) License plates issued for vehicles required to be registered in  
26 accordance with the provisions of sections 49-402 and 49-402A, Idaho Code,  
27 shall be issued color-coded red, white or blue registration validation  
28 stickers showing the year of registration. Each registration validation  
29 sticker shall bear a number from 1 through 12, which number shall correspond  
30 to the month of the calendar year in which the registration of the vehicle  
31 expires and shall be affixed to the lower right-hand corner of the plates  
32 within the outlined rectangular area.

33 (5) License plates for utility trailers registered under the provi-  
34 sions of section 49-402A, Idaho Code, that are issued for five (5) or ten (10)  
35 years and license plates for rental utility trailers registered under the  
36 provisions of section 49-434, Idaho Code, that are issued for up to five (5)  
37 years shall use the design in effect on the date of manufacture. If a design  
38 change occurs, plates from the effective date of the design change shall be  
39 manufactured using the new design. Unexpired plates need not be reissued to  
40 conform to a design change.

41 (6) For license plates that are lost, stolen, mutilated, or illegible,  
42 the owner shall apply for a duplicate or substitute. The assessor shall also  
43 furnish for each registration, and to validate the license plate, a pres-  
44 sure-sensitive, uniquely numbered, color-coded red, white or blue regis-  
45 tration sticker, except for trailers and semitrailers registered under the  
46 nonexpiring provisions in section 49-434, Idaho Code. License plates is-  
47 sued for state, county and city motor vehicles shall be valid for ~~seven ten~~  
48 (710) years pursuant to subsection (2) of this section and remain on the ve-  
49 hicle for which issued from year to year, and need no renewal or validation  
50 sticker.

1 (7) Whenever a vehicle is completely destroyed by fire or accident and  
 2 the operator submits satisfactory proof of that destruction to the depart-  
 3 ment or appropriate assessor's office, or the owner wishes to transfer the  
 4 remaining registration, use increment and fees shall be transferred to the  
 5 replacement vehicle for a service transfer fee of five dollars (\$5.00),  
 6 which fee shall be retained by the registering authority. None of the orig-  
 7 inal fees shall be subject to refund.

8 (8) The department shall furnish to every owner whose vehicle is reg-  
 9 istered under sections 49-434 and 49-435, Idaho Code, a pressure-sensitive,  
 10 uniquely numbered, color-coded red, white or blue registration sticker to  
 11 validate the license plate, provided however, the provisions of this subsec-  
 12 tion shall not apply to trailers and semitrailers registered under the pro-  
 13 visions of section 49-434(4), Idaho Code.

14 (9) The board shall have authority to require the return to the depart-  
 15 ment of all license plates and registration stickers upon termination of the  
 16 lawful use of them by the owner.

17 (10) The board may promulgate such rules as are necessary to implement  
 18 the provisions of this section.

19 SECTION 2. That Section 49-443B, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
 20 amended to read as follows:

21 49-443B. LICENSE PLATES FOR STATE VEHICLES AND VEHICLES BELONGING TO  
 22 TAXING DISTRICTS. (1) License plates for state vehicles and vehicles belong-  
 23 ing to taxing districts shall be valid for a period of ~~seven ten~~ (7~~10~~) years  
 24 pursuant to section 49-443(2), Idaho Code, and shall remain on the vehicle to  
 25 which it is issued until transferred to another vehicle or until it is can-  
 26 celed by the department. The department shall be reimbursed by state agen-  
 27 cies and the taxing districts for the cost of providing license plates. The  
 28 department may develop rules to administer this license plate program.

29 (2) Each license plate issued pursuant to this section shall bear a des-  
 30 ignator to identify the agency, entity or office to which a vehicle belongs  
 31 or, for trailers or motorcycles, to specify the plate type. Any vehicle with  
 32 a license plate issued pursuant to this section that does not comply with the  
 33 provisions of this subsection as of the effective date of this act shall be  
 34 reregistered, subject to a reregistration fee of twelve dollars and fifty  
 35 cents (\$12.50), within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act. The  
 36 designators shall be as follows:

37	Designator	Agency, entity, office, or plate type
38	A	Trailer (all weights); small plate
39	C	School district or miscellaneous city or county
40		agencies, entities or offices
41	D	Highway district
42	F	Fire district
43	G	Fish and game
44	H	Department of health and welfare
45	ISP	Idaho state police

1 J Department of commerce or department of labor  
2 L Law enforcement  
3 M Motorcycle; small plate  
4 P City police  
5 R Department of parks and recreation  
6 SO Sheriff's office  
7 T Department of transportation  
8 X Miscellaneous state agencies, entities or offices  
9 Y Irrigation district  
10 Z Department of lands

11 (3) Personalized or specialty license plates are exempt from the provi-  
12 sions of subsection (2) of this section.