

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: SB749

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE AMATEUR STATION CALL SIGN SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE STATUTE; AND TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL SEQUENTIAL AMATEUR SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES WITH THE SAME AMATEUR STATION CALL SIGN.

Basic Change : Sponsor: Senator Teague

Under current law, a motor vehicle owner who is a licensed amateur radio operator may obtain 1 special amateur radio license plate. In lieu of the regular license plate number, the license plate number is the official amateur station call sign assigned by the Federal Communications Commission. The bill provides that the amateur radio operator may obtain up to 4 plates for 4 vehicles. The number for the first plate would remain the call sign letters and numbers of the additional plates would be the call sign followed by sequential numbers. The fee for each plate is the regular fee for the vehicle plus a \$2.00 additional fee. The bill specifies that additional fees are to be deposited to the State Central Services Fund for the benefit of the Revenue Division.

Revenue Impact :

Possible minimum increase to the State Central Services Fund depending on the number of additional plates issued under the new law.

Taxpayer Impact :

Motor vehicle owners licensed as amateur radio operators would be allowed up to four (4) special amateur radio plates.

Resources Required :

No additional resources required.

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided.

Procedural Changes :

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

Other Comments :

License plate numbers are limited to 7 characters and spaces. Amateur radio call signs may be up to 7 characters. If a call sign is 6 characters, there could be no space between the call sign and the sequential number, giving the appearance that the sequential number is part of the call sign. If a call sign is 7 characters, it would not be possible to issue additional amateur radio plates because of the 7 character/space limitation. The bill states "The Office of Driver Services may add additional characters. These plates are issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles and not the Office of Driver Services.

Legal Analysis :

SB749 provides that Arkansas residents who hold an unrevoked and unexpired FCC-issued official amateur radio station license may apply for, and annually renew, up to 4 sequential special amateur station call sign license plates with the same amateur station call sign for private passenger cars. The Office of Driver Services may add additional characters to the call sign in sequential order to identify each additional plate issued for each amateur radio station license. This bill should be amended to replace references to the "Office of Driver Services" with the "Office of Motor Vehicle" by reason that the Office of Motor Vehicle is the actual division of DFA that issues license plates.