

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 18, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1658

**Introduced by Assembly Member Gatto
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jeffries)**

February 14, 2012

An act to add Section 5004.3 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1658, as amended, Gatto. Vehicles: specialized license plates.

Under existing law, the Department of Motor Vehicles issues environmental and other specialized license plates. The issuance of some of those license plates is subject to additional fees.

This bill would require the department to establish the California Legacy License Plate Program, and to create and issue a series of specialized license plates that replicate plates from the state's past, if 7,500 applications for the plates are received and held by the department, on or before January 1, ~~2014~~ 2015. The bill would require that, upon determination by the department that there are sufficient funds for the program, moneys be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for the necessary administrative costs of establishing the program and, as to any remaining moneys, for deposit into the California Environmental License Plate Fund for appropriation by the Legislature pursuant to existing law.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5004.3 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
2 read:

3 5004.3. (a) Subject to subdivision (c), the department shall
4 establish the California Legacy License Plate Program and create
5 and issue a series of specialized license plates known as California
6 Legacy License Plates that replicate the look of California license
7 plates from the state's past. The design of the plates shall be
8 identical, to the extent the department determines it to be
9 reasonably feasible under current manufacturing processes, to a
10 regular license plate, except as provided in subdivision (b).

11 (b) The California Legacy License Plates shall consist of one
12 or more of the following designs:

13 (1) Yellow background with black lettering per the appearance
14 of California license plates issued by the department ~~in the 1950s~~
15 *from 1956 to 1962, inclusive.*

16 (2) Black background with yellow lettering per the appearance
17 of California license plates issued by the department ~~in the 1960s~~
18 *from 1965 to 1968, inclusive.*

19 (3) Blue background with yellow lettering per the appearance
20 of California license plates issued by the department ~~in the 1980s~~
21 *from 1969 to 1986, inclusive.*

22 (c) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration or
23 renewal of registration, the following additional fees shall be paid
24 for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the specialized license
25 plates:

26 (1) Fifty dollars (\$50) for the original issuance of the plates.

27 (2) Forty dollars (\$40) for a renewal of registration with the
28 plates.

29 (3) Fifteen dollars (\$15) for transfer of the plates to another
30 vehicle.

31 (4) Thirty-five dollars (\$35) for each substitute replacement
32 plate.

33 (d) The department shall not issue California Legacy License
34 Plates for a vehicle that is exempt from the payment of registration
35 fees pursuant to Section 9101 or 9103.

36 (e) (1) The department shall not establish the California Legacy
37 License Plate Program until the department has received not less
38 than 7,500 paid applications for plates. The department shall collect

1 and hold applications for the plates. The department shall not issue
2 a specialized license plate until it has received not less than 7,500
3 paid applications for the particular plates within the time period
4 prescribed in this section.

5 (2) The department shall have until January 1, ~~2014~~ 2015, to
6 receive the required number of applications. If, after that date,
7 7,500 paid applications have not been received, the department
8 shall immediately refund to all applicants all fees or deposits that
9 have been collected.

10 (f) (1) Upon determination by the department that there are
11 sufficient funds for the program, moneys shall be available, upon
12 appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for the
13 necessary administrative costs of establishing the California Legacy
14 License Plate Program.

15 (2) After deducting its administrative costs under this
16 subdivision, the department shall deposit any additional revenue
17 derived from the issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of
18 the specialized license plates into the California Environmental
19 License Plate Fund, for appropriation by the Legislature pursuant
20 to existing law.