

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2303

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

February 18, 2016

An act to add ~~Section~~ *Sections 5004.4 and 5076* to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2303, as amended, Holden. Vehicles: specialized license plates.

Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a California Legacy License Plate Program that creates a series of specialized license plates that replicate plates from the state's past. *Existing law also requires the department to issue various other special-interest license plates sponsored by nonprofit organizations, as specified.*

This bill would require the department, if 7,500 applications are received before January 1, 2019, to add a specified license plate design utilized by the department between 1982 and 1987 to the California Legacy License Plate Program. *The bill would also require the department, in consultation with the California Bicycle Coalition, Inc., to make available for issuance bicycle awareness license plates if certain conditions are satisfied.*

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*

3 *(a) Twenty-one million adults walked for fun, exercise, or*
4 *transportation and 2,970,000 youth walked, biked, or skated from*
5 *school one or more times a week.*

6 *(b) There are 9,863 licensed professional cyclists who live in*
7 *California, which is 16 percent of the national total and more than*
8 *any other state.*

9 *(c) Death rates for California bicyclists and pedestrians are*
10 *much higher than in the United States as a whole.*

11 *(d) The Active Transportation Program has had more project*
12 *applications submitted than available funding every year since it*
13 *was formed in 2013.*

14 *(e) The Legacy License Plate Program has been well-received*
15 *with the 1960s' Vintage Plate entering production in 2015.*

16 *(f) It is the intent of the Legislature to further support bikeway*
17 *planning-related activities through the Active Transportation*
18 *Program.*

19 *(g) The Legislature further intends to initiate a statewide*
20 *program to raise bicycle awareness.*

21 **SECTION 1.**

22 **SEC. 2.** Section 5004.4 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

23 5004.4. (a) Subject to subdivision (c), the department shall
24 add to the California Legacy License Plate Program, authorized
25 pursuant to Section 5004.3, the license plate design utilized by the
26 department between 1982 and 1987 that featured blue, orange, and
27 red lettering, a white background, the phrase "Golden State" and
28 a sunset design.

29 (b) An applicant for the specialized license plates described in
30 subdivision (a), who shall be the owner or lessee of the vehicle on
31 which the plates will be displayed, may choose to either accept a
32 license plate character sequence assigned by the department or
33 request a combination of letters or ~~numbers~~ *numbers*, or both.

34 (c) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration or
35 renewal of registration, the following additional fees shall be paid
36 for the issuance, renewal, retention, or transfer of the specialized
37 license plates:

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

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

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

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

7 (5) Thirty-eight dollars (\$38), when the payment of renewal
8 fees is not required as specified in Section 4000 and the holder of
9 the specialized license plates retains the plates. The fee shall be
10 due at the expiration of the registration year of the vehicle to which
11 the specialized license plates were assigned. This paragraph shall
12 not apply when a plate character sequence is assigned by the
13 department pursuant to subdivision (b).

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

17 (e) (1) The department shall not add the license plate authorized
18 by subdivision (a) until the department has received not less than
19 7,500 paid applications for plates. The department shall collect
20 and hold applications for the plates. The department shall not issue
21 the specialized plate authorized by subdivision (a) until it has
22 received not less than 7,500 paid applications for plates within the
23 time period prescribed in paragraph (2).

24 (2) The department shall have until January 1, 2019, to receive
25 the required number of applications. If, after that date, 7,500 paid
26 applications have not been received for the plate described in
27 subdivision (a), the department shall immediately refund to all
28 applicants all fees or deposits that have been collected.

29 (f) (1) Upon determination by the department that there are
30 sufficient funds for the program, moneys gathered pursuant to this
31 section shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,
32 to the department for the necessary administrative costs incurred
33 pursuant to this section.

34 (2) After deducting its administrative costs pursuant to paragraph
35 (1), the department shall deposit any additional revenue derived
36 from the issuance, renewal, retention, transfer, and substitution of
37 the specialized license plates into the State Highway Account in
38 the State Transportation Fund, to be available upon appropriation
39 by the Legislature for the purpose of funding ~~bikeways through~~
40 ~~the Active Transportation Program.~~ *active transportation planning.*

1 *SEC. 3. Section 5076 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:*

2 *5076. (a) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as*
3 *the Bicycle Awareness License Plate Act.*

4 *(b) Notwithstanding Section 5060.1, the department, in*
5 *consultation with the California Bicycle Coalition, Inc., shall make*
6 *available for issuance pursuant to this article bicycle awareness*
7 *license plates if the requirements of this article are satisfied.*

8 *(c) In addition to the regular fees for an original registration*
9 *or renewal of registration, the following additional fees shall be*
10 *paid for the issuance, transfer, or renewal of the bicycle awareness*
11 *license plates:*

12 *(1) For the original issuance of the plates, fifty dollars (\$50).*

13 *(2) For a renewal of registration of the plates, forty dollars*
14 *(\$40).*

15 *(3) For the transfer of the special plates to another vehicle,*
16 *fifteen dollars (\$15).*

17 *(d) All fees collected under this section, after deduction of the*
18 *department's costs in administering this section, shall be deposited*
19 *in the California Bicycle Coalition Fund, which is hereby*
20 *established in the General Fund. Upon appropriation by the*
21 *Legislature, the funds shall be allocated to the California Bicycle*
22 *Coalition, Inc., to establish a statewide program to raise bicycle*
23 *awareness, which shall include, but not be limited to, state and*
24 *local educational activities promoting safety for bicyclists,*
25 *pedestrians, and motorists.*