

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 570

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION; AMENDING SECTION 49-405, IDAHO  
2 CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DESIGN OF RADIO AMATEUR LICENSE PLATES AND TO  
3 MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN  
4 EFFECTIVE DATE.  
5

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

7 SECTION 1. That Section 49-405, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 49-405. RADIO AMATEURS -- SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES. (1) In order to en-  
10 hance visibility and identification of radio amateurs during times of emer-  
11 gency, any radio amateur residing in the state of Idaho, may, upon applica-  
12 tion to the department, register one (1) motor vehicle per radio license is-  
13 sued by the federal government and receive for that vehicle special license  
14 plates in lieu of regular license plates. The provisions of this section  
15 shall not apply to any vehicle with a registered maximum gross weight over  
16 twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds. The number on the plates shall be the  
17 same combination of figures and letters that make up the radio call sign of  
18 the amateur radio operator.

19 (2) The radio amateur license plate shall be of a color and design in  
20 accordance with the provisions of section 49-402C, Idaho Code. The distin-  
21 guishing features of the license plate shall be:

22 (a) A representation of a radio tower emitting radio waves in the form  
23 of lightning bolts with the phrase "Amateur Radio" beneath it;

24 (b) The phrase "CQ DE" spelled out in international Morse code; and

25 (c) The phrase "Emergency Communication" at the bottom of the plate and  
26 underneath the call sign.

27 (3) The design and any slogan on the plate shall be acceptable to the  
28 Idaho section of the American radio relay league. Any future design or re-  
29 design of the plate shall also be approved by the Idaho section of the Ameri-  
30 can radio relay league. Initial costs of the plate program, including costs  
31 of plate design, shall be borne by the department.

32 (4) Proof of holding an amateur license from the federal communications  
33 commission must be furnished to the department before the plates will be is-  
34 ssued. Should the amateur's radio license expire during any given year and  
35 not be renewed, the special license plates must be surrendered to the depart-  
36 ment and regular license plates obtained.

37 (35) Radio amateurs will notify the department at a time to be set by  
38 the department of their intention to procure special license plates under  
39 the terms specified in this section. Failure to do so will result in the am-  
40 ateur being required to accept regular license plates should the department  
41 be unable to procure the special plates. Special plates may still be pro-  
42 cured when available, but amateurs will be subject to the usual transfer fee.

1           (46) Whenever an amateur transfers or assigns his title or interest  
2 to a vehicle especially registered, the registration shall expire, but the  
3 amateur may hold his special license plates, which he may have reissued to  
4 him upon the payment of the required transfer fees. He may ~~only~~ display the  
5 plates only after receipt of new registration from the department.

6           (57) In addition to the regular registration fees required in section  
7 49-402(1) or 49-434(1), Idaho Code, the applicant shall pay the plate fee  
8 specified in section 49-450, Idaho Code.

9           SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
10 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
11 July 1, 2022.