

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 15

BY SENATOR APPEL

MOTOR VEHICLES. Provides for change in prestige license plate from "HAM Operator" to "Amateur Radio". (8/15/10)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the title to Part II-B of Chapter 4 of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised  
3 Statutes of 1950 and R.S. 47:491(A)(1) and (6) and 492(A), (B), and (E), relative to  
4 amateur radio station operators; to provide for changing the design of a prestige  
5 license plate from "HAM Operator" to "Amateur Radio"; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. The title to Part II-B of Chapter 4 of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised  
9 Statutes of 1950, R.S. 47:491(A)(1) and (6), and 492(A), (B), and (E) are hereby amended  
10 and reenacted to read as follows:

11 PART II-B. ~~HAM~~ **AMATEUR** RADIO STATION LICENSE PLATES

12 §491. Legislative findings

13 A.(1) The legislature finds that amateur ~~or "ham"~~ radio station operators have  
14 had the privilege of having their own identifiable plates since 1951.

15 \* \* \*

16 (6) The legislature concludes from these findings that the state has a legitimate  
17 governmental interest in the issuance of amateur ~~or "ham"~~ radio station license plates

1 to owners or operators as a way to recognize amateur radio station owners or  
 2 operators and to raise public awareness of their valuable service to the public. The  
 3 legislature further concludes that for these reasons the plates are issued in accordance  
 4 with a "narrow, objective, and definitive standard" as is recommended by the  
 5 *Henderson vs. Stalder*, 265 F.Supp.2d 699 (E.D. La., 2003) decision.

6 §492. ~~Ham~~ **Amateur** radio station plates for owners and operators

7 A. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to ~~ham~~ **amateur** radio  
 8 station owners or operators.

9 B. Upon application of a ~~ham~~ **an amateur** radio station owner or operator, the  
 10 secretary shall issue a ~~ham~~ **an amateur** radio station plate, to be used in lieu of the  
 11 regular motor vehicle registration license plates, which shall be inscribed with the  
 12 official call letters of the ~~ham~~ **amateur** radio station owned or operated by such  
 13 applicant, as assigned by the Federal Communications Commission, and the  
 14 designation "~~HAM Operator~~" **Amateur Radio**". The applicant shall comply with the  
 15 state laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and shall, at the time  
 16 of application, present such proof of his status as a ~~ham~~ **an amateur** radio station  
 17 owner or operator as shall be acceptable to the secretary.

18 \* \* \*

19 E. On the application of any person who is a ~~ham~~ **an amateur** radio station  
 20 owner or operator and who is also either a mobility impaired person as defined in R.S.  
 21 47:463.4(E) or a disabled veteran as defined in R.S. 47:490.4, the secretary shall issue  
 22 to such applicant a special license plate in accordance with Subsection A of this  
 23 Section which shall contain the appropriate symbol indicating that the applicant is  
 24 also a mobility impaired person or a disabled veteran.

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The original instrument was prepared by Christopher D. Adams. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

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DIGEST

Appel (SB 15)

Present law provides a motor vehicle prestige license plate for ham radio station owners or operators.

Proposed law provides a change in the design of the prestige license plate from "HAM Operator" to "Amateur Radio".

Effective on August 15, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 47:491(A)(1) and (6); 492(A), (B), and (E))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to reengrossed bill.

1. Technical amendments with clarifying language.