

SENATE BILL NO. 15

BY SENATOR APPEL

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

§491. Legislative findings

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

\* \* \*

(6) The legislature concludes from these findings that the state has a legitimate governmental interest in the issuance of amateur ~~or "ham"~~ radio station license plates to owners or operators as a way to recognize amateur radio station owners or operators and to raise public awareness of their valuable service to the public. The legislature further concludes that for these reasons the plates are issued in accordance with a "narrow, objective, and definitive standard" as is recommended by the *Henderson vs. Stalder*, 265 F.Supp.2d 699 (E.D. La., 2003) decision.

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

1                 A. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to ~~ham~~ amateur  
2 radio station owners or operators.

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

12                                 \*         \*         \*

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

20                                 \*         \*         \*

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_