

A bill for an act

relating to license plates; establishing special equine enthusiast license plates;
creating account; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in
Minnesota Statutes, chapter 168.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[168.1299] SPECIAL "EQUINE ENTHUSIAST" LICENSE PLATES.**

Subdivision 1. General requirements and procedures. (a) The commissioner shall
issue special "Equine Enthusiast" license plates to an applicant who:

(1) is an owner of a passenger automobile, one-ton pickup truck, recreational
vehicle, motorcycle, or trailer;

(2) pays a fee of \$10 to cover the costs of handling and manufacturing the plates;

(3) pays the registration tax required under section 168.013;

(4) pays the fees required under this chapter;

(5) contributes a minimum of \$20 annually to the equine enthusiast account
established in subdivision 5; and

(6) complies with laws and rules governing registration and licensing of vehicles
and drivers.

(b) The license application under this section must indicate that the annual
contribution specified under paragraph (a), clause (5), is a minimum contribution to receive
the plates and that the applicant may make an additional contribution to the account.

Subd. 2. Design. After consultation with interested groups, the commissioner shall
create one or more designs for the special plates, which must depict a horse that is not
breed-specific or a horse and rider.

Subd. 3. No refund. Contributions under this section must not be refunded.

2.1 Subd. 4. **Plate transfers.** Notwithstanding section 168.12, subdivision 1, on
2.2 payment of a transfer fee of \$5, plates issued under this section may be transferred to
2.3 another passenger automobile, one-ton pickup truck, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, or
2.4 trailer owned by the individual to whom the special plates were issued.

2.5 Subd. 5. **Equine enthusiast account.** An equine enthusiast account is created in
2.6 the state treasury. Except for one percent that may be retained by the commissioner for
2.7 administrative costs, all contributions received under this section must be deposited by the
2.8 commissioner in the equine enthusiast account. Money in the account is appropriated to
2.9 the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station to be awarded annually as
2.10 competitive grants to faculty in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource
2.11 Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine for equine-related research and outreach
2.12 and education to address issues that are critical to horse owners and horse care in this
2.13 state, with the objectives of improving the quality of care for horses and their habitat, and
2.14 increasing the knowledge of horse owners in Minnesota. The University of Minnesota
2.15 Agricultural Experiment Station shall post an annual report on its Web site outlining
2.16 the use of the funds, including projects funded, results, applications, and outreach and
2.17 educational programs and impacts.