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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 5207

04/02/2024 Authored by Norris, Kraft and Niska
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to transportation; establishing a special license plate for solar pollinator
1.3 programs; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 168.

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

1.6 Section 1. [168.1289] MINNESOTA SOLAR POLLINATOR PROGRAM SPECIAL
1.7 LICENSE PLATES.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Issuance of plates. (a) The commissioner must issue solar pollinator
1.9 program special license plates or a single motorcycle plate to an applicant who:

1.10 (1) is a registered owner of a passenger automobile, noncommercial one-ton pickup
1.11 truck, motorcycle, or recreational motor vehicle;

1.12 (2) pays a fee in the amount specified for special plates under section 168.12, subdivision
1.13 5, for each set of plates, along with any other fees required by this chapter;

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

1.15 (4) contributes a minimum of \$60 annually to the special pollinator program account;

1.16 and

1.17 (5) complies with this chapter and rules governing registration of motor vehicles and
1.18 licensing of drivers.

1.19 (b) The solar pollinator program plate application must indicate that the annual
1.20 contribution specified under paragraph (a), clause (4), is a minimum contribution to receive
1.21 the plate and that the applicant may make an additional contribution to the account.

2.1 Subd. 2. **Design.** The commissioner must adopt a suitable plate design in consultation
2.2 with the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the commissioner of agriculture, and other
2.3 groups interested in solar pollinator habitats and gardens.

2.4 Subd. 3. **Plates transfer.** On application to the commissioner and payment of a transfer
2.5 fee of \$5, special plates issued under this section may be transferred to another motor vehicle
2.6 if the subsequent vehicle is:

2.7 (1) qualified under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1), to bear the special plate; and

2.8 (2) registered to the same individual to whom the special plates were originally issued.

2.9 Subd. 4. **Exemption.** Special plates issued under this section are not subject to section
2.10 168.1293, subdivision 2.

2.11 Subd. 5. **Contributions; account; appropriation.** Contributions collected under
2.12 subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (4), must be deposited in the special pollinator program
2.13 account, which is established in the special revenue fund. Money in the account is annually
2.14 appropriated to the commissioner of public safety. This appropriation is first for the annual
2.15 cost of administering the account, and the remaining money is for distribution as follows:

2.16 (1) 65 percent to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the habitat friendly solar
2.17 program; and

2.18 (2) 35 percent to the commissioner of agriculture to advise and educate solar site operators
2.19 on their agricultural water quality certification program.

2.20 By August 15 of each year, the commissioner must distribute all money remaining in the
2.21 account as required under this subdivision.

2.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2025, for solar pollinator
2.23 program special plates issued on or after that date.