

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Purpose. The General Assembly recognizes the
5 desire of many commendable civic organizations and causes to be
6 acknowledged by a special license plate and further recognizes
7 that the issuance of special license plates may raise funds
8 that will benefit these organizations and causes. However, the
9 General Assembly also recognizes that the proliferation of
10 special license plates in Illinois creates a significant
11 challenge to law enforcement officials who are required to be
12 familiar with, recognize, read, and record information from
13 more than 100 types of special license plates now being issued
14 in Illinois. To address this situation, the purpose of this
15 amendatory Act of the 99th General Assembly is to authorize the
16 issuance of Universal special license plates.

17 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing
18 Section 3-600 and by adding Section 3-699.14 as follows:

19 (625 ILCS 5/3-600) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 3-600)

20 Sec. 3-600. Requirements for issuance of special plates.

21 (a) The Secretary of State shall issue only special plates
22 that have been authorized by the General Assembly. Except as

1 provided in subsection (a-5), the ~~The~~ Secretary of State shall
2 not issue a series of special plates, or Universal special
3 plates associated with an organization authorized to issue
4 decals for Universal special plates, unless applications, as
5 prescribed by the Secretary, have been received for 2,000
6 ~~10,000~~ plates of that series; ~~except that the Secretary of~~
7 ~~State may prescribe some other required number of applications~~
8 ~~if that number is sufficient to pay for the total cost of~~
9 ~~designing, manufacturing and issuing the special license~~
10 ~~plate.~~ Where a special plate is authorized by law to raise
11 funds for a specific civic group, charitable entity, or other
12 identified organization, or when the civic group, charitable
13 entity, or organization is authorized to issue decals for
14 Universal special license plates, and where the Secretary of
15 State has not received the required number of applications to
16 issue that special plate within 2 years of the effective date
17 of the Public Act authorizing the special plate or decal, the
18 Secretary of State's authority to issue the special plate or a
19 Universal special plate associated with that decal is
20 nullified. All applications for special plates shall be on a
21 form designated by the Secretary and shall be accompanied by
22 any civic group's, charitable entity's, or other identified
23 fundraising organization's portion of the additional fee
24 associated with that plate or decal. All fees collected under
25 this Section are non-refundable and shall be deposited in the
26 special fund as designated in the enabling legislation,

1 regardless of whether the plate or decal is produced. Upon the
2 adoption of this amendatory Act of the 99th General Assembly,
3 no further special license plates shall be authorized by the
4 General Assembly unless that special license plate is
5 authorized under subsection (a-5) of this Section.

6 (a-5) If the General Assembly authorizes the issuance of a
7 special plate that recognizes the applicant's military service
8 or receipt of a military medal or award, the Secretary may
9 immediately begin issuing that special plate.

10 (b) The Secretary of State, upon issuing a new series of
11 special license plates, shall notify all law enforcement
12 officials of the design, color and other special features of
13 the special license plate series.

14 (c) This Section shall not apply to the Secretary of
15 State's discretion as established in Section 3-611.

16 (d) If a law authorizing a special license plate provides
17 that the sponsoring organization is to designate a charitable
18 entity as the recipient of the funds from the sale of that
19 license plate, the designated charitable entity must be in
20 compliance with the registration and reporting requirements of
21 the Charitable Trust Act and the Solicitation for Charity Act.
22 In addition, the charitable entity must annually provide the
23 Secretary of State's office a letter of compliance issued by
24 the Illinois Attorney General's office verifying the entity is
25 in compliance with the Acts.

26 In the case of a law in effect before the effective date of

1 this amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly, the name of
2 the charitable entity which is to receive the funds shall be
3 provided to the Secretary of State within one year after the
4 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 97th General
5 Assembly. In the case of a law that takes effect on or after
6 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 97th General
7 Assembly, the name of the charitable entity which is to receive
8 the funds shall be provided to the Secretary of State within
9 one year after the law takes effect. If the organization fails
10 to designate an appropriate charitable entity within the
11 one-year period, or if the designated charitable entity fails
12 to annually provide the Secretary of State a letter of
13 compliance issued by the Illinois Attorney General's office,
14 any funds collected from the sale of plates authorized for that
15 organization and not previously disbursed shall be transferred
16 to the General Revenue Fund, and the special plates shall be
17 discontinued.

18 (e) If fewer than 1,000 sets of any special license plate
19 authorized by law and issued by the Secretary of State are
20 actively registered for 2 consecutive calendar years, the
21 Secretary of State may discontinue the issuance of that special
22 license plate or require that special license plate to be
23 exchanged for Universal special plates with appropriate
24 decals.

25 (f) Where special license plates have been discontinued
26 pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) of this Section, or when the

1 special license plates are required to be exchanged for
2 Universal special plates under subsection (e) of this Section,
3 all previously issued plates of that type shall be recalled.
4 Owners of vehicles which were registered with recalled plates
5 shall not be charged a reclassification or registration sticker
6 replacement plate fee upon the issuance of new plates for those
7 vehicles.

8 (g) Any special plate that is authorized to be issued for
9 motorcycles may also be issued for autocycles.

10 (Source: P.A. 97-409, eff. 1-1-12; 98-777, eff. 1-1-15.)

11 (625 ILCS 5/3-699.14 new)

12 Sec. 3-699.14. Universal special license plates.

13 (a) In addition to any other special license plate, the
14 Secretary, upon receipt of all applicable fees and applications
15 made in the form prescribed by the Secretary, may issue
16 Universal special license plates to residents of Illinois on
17 behalf of organizations that have been authorized by the
18 General Assembly to issue decals for Universal special license
19 plates. Appropriate documentation, as determined by the
20 Secretary, shall accompany each application. Authorized
21 organizations shall be designated by amendment to this Section.
22 When applying for a Universal special license plate the
23 applicant shall inform the Secretary of the name of the
24 authorized organization from which the applicant will obtain a
25 decal to place on the plate. The Secretary shall make a record

1 of that organization and that organization shall remain
2 affiliated with that plate until the plate is surrendered,
3 revoked, or otherwise cancelled. The authorized organization
4 may charge a fee to offset the cost of producing and
5 distributing the decal, but that fee shall be retained by the
6 authorized organization and shall be separate and distinct from
7 any registration fees charged by the Secretary. No decal,
8 sticker, or other material may be affixed to a Universal
9 special license plate other than a decal authorized by the
10 General Assembly in this Section or a registration renewal
11 sticker. The special plates issued under this Section shall be
12 affixed only to passenger vehicles of the first division,
13 including motorcycles and autocycles, or motor vehicles of the
14 second division weighing not more than 8,000 pounds. Plates
15 issued under this Section shall expire according to the
16 multi-year procedure under Section 3-414.1 of this Code.

17 (b) The design, color, and format of the Universal special
18 license plate shall be wholly within the discretion of the
19 Secretary. Universal special license plates are not required to
20 designate "Land of Lincoln", as prescribed in subsection (b) of
21 Section 3-412 of this Code. The design shall allow for the
22 application of a decal to the plate. Organizations authorized
23 by the General Assembly to issue decals for Universal special
24 license plates shall comply with rules adopted by the Secretary
25 governing the requirements for and approval of Universal
26 special license plate decals. The Secretary may, in his or her

1 discretion, allow Universal special license plates to be issued
2 as vanity or personalized plates in accordance with Section
3 3-405.1 of this Code. The Secretary of State must make a
4 version of the special registration plates authorized under
5 this Section in a form appropriate for motorcycles and
6 autocycles.

7 (c) When authorizing a Universal special license plate, the
8 General Assembly shall set forth whether an additional fee is
9 to be charged for the plate and, if a fee is to be charged, the
10 amount of the fee and how the fee is to be distributed. When
11 necessary, the authorizing language shall create a special fund
12 in the State treasury into which fees may be deposited for an
13 authorized Universal special license plate. Additional fees
14 may only be charged if the fee is to be paid over to a State
15 agency or to a charitable entity that is in compliance with the
16 registration and reporting requirements of the Charitable
17 Trust Act and the Solicitation for Charity Act. Any charitable
18 entity receiving fees for the sale of Universal special license
19 plates shall annually provide the Secretary of State a letter
20 of compliance issued by the Attorney General verifying that the
21 entity is in compliance with the Charitable Trust Act and the
22 Solicitation for Charity Act.

23 (d) Upon original issuance and for each registration
24 renewal period, in addition to the appropriate registration
25 fee, if applicable, the Secretary shall collect any additional
26 fees, if required, for issuance of Universal special license

1 plates. The fees shall be collected on behalf of the
2 organization designated by the applicant when applying for the
3 plate. All fees collected shall be transferred to the State
4 agency on whose behalf the fees were collected, or paid into
5 the special fund designated in the law authorizing the
6 organization to issue decals for Universal special license
7 plates. All money in the designated fund shall be distributed
8 by the Secretary subject to appropriation by the General
9 Assembly.

10 (625 ILCS 5/3-633 rep.)

11 Section 10. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
12 repealing Section 3-633.

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
14 2016.