

92GMSSB1552

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

July 19, 2002

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate
92nd General Assembly

Specialty license plates serve an admirable purpose of recognizing and raising funds for organizations and worthy causes throughout the State of Illinois. In signing Senate Bill 1552 today, I honor the General Assembly's intentions and support a longstanding tradition in Illinois to provide our residents with the opportunity to display their support for a cause or organization through specialty license plates. However, I also recognize that the State is experiencing a proliferation of specialty plates, which holds the potential to impact Illinois citizens with respect to public safety. The Illinois State Police and law enforcement community have indicated a growing concern with the increasing number of special plates. The myriad of designs available make it difficult for law enforcement officers to identify properly issued valid Illinois registrations, impairing the ability of police to quickly identify suspect vehicles.

It is also essential, especially in these tight economic times, for the State to curtail any unnecessary spending. In creating a funding mechanism within Senate Bill 1552, the General Assembly has made clear its intention for the additional fee paid by the recipients of special license plates to cover the cost of their design and production. In order to ensure that the General Assembly's intention is guaranteed, I believe it is essential that the State incur the costs of special plate production only after the applicants for the plates have demonstrated a sufficient level of interest to cover those costs.

I encourage the Secretary of State's Office to use the discretionary powers provided to the office by Section 3-600 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/3-600) which allows the Secretary to produce new special plates only when a sufficient level of applications have been received.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR