

PERSONAL LICENSE PLATE AMENDMENTS

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to the Motor Vehicle Division’s authority to deny a personalized license plate request.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ allows the Motor Vehicle Division to refuse to issue a license plate if the Motor Vehicle Division determines that the combination of letters and numbers disparages an individual or group of people based on certain protected classes; and

▶ prohibits the Motor Vehicle Division from denying a personalized license plate request if the requested letters, numbers, or combination of both refer to an official state symbol.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

41-1a-411, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 49

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



28 Section 1. Section **41-1a-411** is amended to read:

29 **41-1a-411. Application for personalized plates -- Refusal authorized.**

30 (1) An applicant for personalized license plates or renewal of the plates shall file an
31 application for the plates in the form and by the date the division requires, indicating the
32 combination of letters, numbers, or both requested as a registration number.

33 (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3), the division may refuse to issue any
34 combination of letters, numbers, or both that:

35 (i) may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or that would be
36 misleading[-]; or

37 (ii) disparage a person or group based on:

38 (A) race;

39 (B) color;

40 (C) national origin;

41 (D) religion;

42 (E) age;

43 (F) gender;

44 (G) sexual orientation;

45 (H) citizenship status; or

46 (I) physical or mental disability.

47 (b) The division may refuse to issue a combination of letters, numbers, or both as a
48 registration number if that same combination is already in use as a registration number on an
49 existing license plate.

50 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(2)(b)~~] (2) or (3)(b), the division may not
51 refuse a combination of letters, numbers, or both as a registration number if:

52 (i) the license plate is an honor special group license plate as described in Section
53 41-1a-421[-]; and [~~(ii)~~] the combination of letters, numbers, or both refers to:

54 (A) a year related to military service;

55 (B) a military branch; or

56 (C) an official achievement, badge, or honor received for military service[-]; or

57 (ii) the combination of letters, numbers, or both as a registration number refers to an
58 official state symbol described in Section 63G-1-601.

59 (b) If an applicant requests a combination containing only numbers, the division may
60 refuse the combination if the combination includes less than four numerical digits.