

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 472

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 49-443, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE
2 THAT THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE NEW PLATES BEAR-
3 ING THE SAME NUMBER OR, IF REQUESTED BY THE OWNER, THE NEXT AVAILABLE
4 NUMBER, REGARDING CERTAIN VEHICLES FOR PURPOSES OF SPECIFIED PROVI-
5 SIONS OF LAW.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Section 49-443, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 49-443. LICENSE PLATES TO BE FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT -- FORM AND
11 CONTENTS. (1) The assessor or the department shall furnish to every owner
12 whose vehicle is registered or licensed by that office, pursuant to sections
13 49-402 and 49-402A, Idaho Code, one (1) license plate for vehicles regis-
14 tered under the provisions of section 49-406, 49-406A or 49-408, Idaho Code,
15 or a motorcycle, trailer, truck-tractor, or semitrailer; one (1) restricted
16 vehicle license plate for all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles and
17 motorbikes licensed pursuant to this chapter; and two (2) license plates
18 for every other motor vehicle. If a vehicle is issued one (1) plate only,
19 that plate shall be displayed in accordance with the provisions of section
20 49-428, Idaho Code. For vehicles registered under the provisions of section
21 49-407, Idaho Code, the applicant shall provide one (1) plate to be displayed
22 on the rear of the vehicle.

23 Commencing January 1, 1992, the color and design of the plates shall be
24 comparable to the color and design of the statehood centennial issue of li-
25 cense plates with blue numerals and letters on a multicolored red, white and
26 blue background. Each license plate must bear upon its face the inscriptions
27 "Famous Potatoes" and "Scenic Idaho." The restricted vehicle license plate
28 for all-terrain vehicles, utility type vehicles and motorbikes shall be a
29 white background with black numerals and letters, with "Idaho Restricted Ve-
30 hicle" and the year of its expiration on its face and no other inscription.
31 The restricted vehicle license plate shall be the same size required for the
32 motorcycle license plate.

33 Every license plate shall have displayed upon it the registration num-
34 ber assigned to the vehicle and its owner and the name "Idaho" which may be
35 abbreviated. The plates issued under the provisions of section 49-402(1),
36 Idaho Code, and the required letters and numerals, including an identifica-
37 tion of the county in which the motor vehicle to which the plates will be af-
38 fixed is registered, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from
39 a distance of seventy-five (75) feet during daylight, and each license plate
40 and registration sticker shall be treated with a fully reflectorized mate-
41 rial according to specifications prescribed by the board.

1 (2) License plates shall be valid for a period of seven (7) years begin-
2 ning with the date of issuance of new plates. At the end of the sixth year,
3 the registered owner shall receive notice of the date upon which the plates
4 will expire.

5 For specialty license plate programs discontinued pursuant to the
6 provisions of section 49-402C, Idaho Code, a registrant with a specialty
7 license plate currently registered under the program may use such license
8 plate for up to seven (7) years from the date of issuance. This provision
9 is intended to permit the use of the specialty plate by the registrant re-
10 gardless of the number of persons who purchase the specialty plate. The
11 registrant shall be required to pay the special plate program fees provided
12 for specialty plates pursuant to this chapter. Such fees shall be deposited
13 into the state highway account. For purposes of section 49-434, Idaho Code,
14 as it applies to commercial vehicles, and section 49-435, Idaho Code, the
15 department shall provide new plates bearing the same number or upon request
16 from the registered owner, the next available number.

17 (3) If a license plate number has expired as provided in subsection (2)
18 of this section and is not renewed within sixty (60) days of its expiration,
19 the plate number shall be available for use by another registrant. To obtain
20 a specific number in the recycled license plate number file, the owner of a
21 registered vehicle may contact the county regarding availability.

22 The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to vehicles regis-
23 tered under the provisions of section 49-402(1), Idaho Code, and section
24 49-434(1), Idaho Code, as it applies to noncommercial vehicles.

25 (4) License plates issued for vehicles required to be registered in
26 accordance with the provisions of sections 49-402 and 49-402A, Idaho Code,
27 shall be issued color coded red, white or blue registration validation
28 stickers showing the year of registration. Each registration validation
29 sticker shall bear a number from 1 through 12, which number shall correspond
30 to the month of the calendar year in which the registration of the vehicle
31 expires and shall be affixed to the lower right-hand corner of the plates
32 within the outlined rectangular area.

33 (5) License plates for utility trailers registered under the provi-
34 sions of section 49-402A, Idaho Code, that are issued for five (5) or ten (10)
35 years and license plates for rental utility trailers registered under the
36 provisions of section 49-434, Idaho Code, that are issued for up to five (5)
37 years shall use the design in effect on the date of manufacture. If a design
38 change occurs, plates from the effective date of the design change shall be
39 manufactured using the new design. Unexpired plates need not be reissued to
40 conform to a design change.

41 (6) For license plates that are lost, stolen, mutilated, or illegible,
42 the owner shall apply for a duplicate or substitute. The assessor shall also
43 furnish for each registration, and to validate the license plate, a pres-
44 sure-sensitive, uniquely numbered, color coded red, white or blue regis-
45 tration sticker, except for trailers and semitrailers registered under the
46 nonexpiring provisions in section 49-434, Idaho Code. License plates issued
47 for state, county and city motor vehicles shall be valid for seven (7) years
48 pursuant to subsection (2) of this section and remain on the vehicle for
49 which issued from year to year, and need no renewal or validation sticker.

1 (7) Whenever a vehicle is completely destroyed by fire or accident and
2 the operator submits satisfactory proof of that destruction to the depart-
3 ment or appropriate assessor's office, or the owner wishes to transfer the
4 remaining registration use increment and fees shall be transferred to the
5 replacement vehicle for a service transfer fee of five dollars (\$5.00),
6 which fee shall be retained by the registering authority. None of the orig-
7 inal fees shall be subject to refund.

8 (8) The department shall furnish to every owner whose vehicle is reg-
9 istered under sections 49-434 and 49-435, Idaho Code, a pressure-sensitive,
10 uniquely numbered, color coded red, white or blue registration sticker to
11 validate the license plate, provided however, the provisions of this subsec-
12 tion shall not apply to trailers and semitrailers registered under the pro-
13 visions of section 49-434(4), Idaho Code.

14 (9) The board shall have authority to require the return to the depart-
15 ment of all license plates and registration stickers upon termination of the
16 lawful use of them by the owner.

17 (10) The board may promulgate such rules as are necessary to implement
18 the provisions of this section.