

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 3
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bailey, Bentz, Berger, Boone, Kahl, Schaufler, Beyer
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Edwards D., Gilman, Weidner
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/27, 4/21

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes consular corps registration plates for use on motor vehicles. Declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Duties of consular officers
- Importance of being recognizable as consular officers

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Adds emergency clause.

**BACKGROUND:** The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Department of Transportation offers several different types of registration plates for vehicles, including the tree plate, Crater Lake plate, salmon plate and cultural plate. In addition, there are special plates available for ham radio operators and for antique or special interest vehicles, and variations of the tree plate for non-profit groups, higher education institutions, and veteran/service organizations. Vehicle owners can also receive custom registration plates that allow them to choose the alphanumeric sequence on the plate.

House Bill 2569-A directs DMV, upon request, to issue special registration plates for honorary consular officers to the United States. The plates are to be considered custom plates, subject to a \$25/year additional registration fee, and are to be for a single vehicle. The plates are only to be valid on a vehicle for the period during which the owner is acting in the official capacity as an honorary consul for a foreign consulate; following the end of their service as consul, the owner may retain possession of the plates, but they will no longer be valid if displayed on a vehicle.

A *consular officer* is a citizen of a foreign country employed by a foreign government and authorized to provide assistance on behalf of that government to that government's citizens in a foreign country. They are traditionally assigned to the consular section of a foreign government's embassy in Washington D.C., or to consular offices maintained by the foreign government in locations throughout the United States. An *honorary consul* is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States who has been authorized by a foreign government to perform official functions on its behalf in the United States.

4/23/2009 3:00:00 PM

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***