

# House Bill 2901

Sponsored by Representative BOONE; Representatives BAILEY, BARKER, BRUUN, CLEM, ESQUIVEL, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GILLIAM, GILMAN, GREENLICK, HANNA, HOLVEY, HUFFMAN, JENSON, KENNEMER, KRIEGER, MATTHEWS, MAURER, OLSON, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLEER, SHIELDS, G SMITH, STIEGLER, THATCHER, THOMPSON, VANORMAN, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD, Senators ATKINSON, BATES, BURDICK, COURTNEY, FERRIOLI, GIROD, HASS, JOHNSON, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORRISETTE, MORSE, PROZANSKI, ROSENBAUM, SCHRADER, STARR, TELFER, VERGER, WALKER, WINTERS (at the request of Keep Oregon Green Association)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Allows Department of Transportation to issue group registration plate for group that promotes prevention of wildfires. Directs State Forestry Department to seek federal approval to use image of Smokey Bear on group plates.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to group registration plates; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 805.205.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 805.205 is amended to read:

5 805.205. (1) The Department of Transportation shall provide for issuance of registration plates  
6 described in subsections (3) and (7) of this section for nonprofit groups meeting the qualifications for  
7 tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and for institutions of higher  
8 education. Plates issued under this section may be issued to owners of motor vehicles registered  
9 under the provisions of ORS 803.420 (1). Plates issued under this section may not contain expressions  
10 of political opinion or religious belief. Rules adopted under this section shall include, but need not  
11 be limited to, rules that:

12 (a) Describe general qualifications to be met by any group in order to be eligible for plates is-  
13 sued under this section.

14 (b) Specify circumstances under which the department may cease to issue plates for any partic-  
15 ular group.

16 (c) Require each group for which plates are issued to file an annual statement on a form de-  
17 signed by the department showing that the group is a nonprofit group or **is** an institution of higher  
18 education and **that the group or institution** otherwise meets the qualifications imposed for eligi-  
19 bility for plates issued under this section. The statement shall include names and addresses of cur-  
20 rent directors or officers of the group **or institution** or of other persons authorized to speak for the  
21 group or institution on matters affecting plates issued under this section.

22 (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, in addition to  
23 any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section and upon renewal of  
24 registration for a vehicle that has plates issued under this section, the department shall collect a  
25 surcharge of \$2.50 per plate for each year of the registration period.

26 (b) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section  
27 *[that]* **for a group that promotes the prevention of wildfires or that** recognizes an institution

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 of higher education in this state, and upon renewal of registration for a vehicle that has such plates,  
2 the department shall collect a surcharge of \$8 per plate for each year of the registration period.

3 (c) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a Share the Road registra-  
4 tion plate, as described in subsection (7) of this section, the department shall collect a surcharge  
5 of \$5 per year of registration.

6 (3) Plates issued under this section shall be from the current regular issue of plates except that  
7 if the group requesting the plates:

8 (a) Is an institution of higher education, the plates shall, upon request, contain words that in-  
9 dicate the plates are issued to recognize the institution or shall contain the institution's logo or an  
10 image of the institution's mascot.

11 (b) **Is a group that promotes the prevention of wildfires, the plates shall contain words**  
12 **that promote the prevention of wildfires in Oregon and have an image of Smokey Bear. Only**  
13 **plates with an image of Smokey Bear may be used to promote the prevention of wildfires in**  
14 **Oregon. All fees required to be paid for use of the image of Smokey Bear shall be paid by the**  
15 **group requesting the plates that promote the prevention of wildfires. If the department de-**  
16 **termines at any time that use of the image of Smokey Bear is not authorized by the federal**  
17 **government, the department may not issue any plates with the image of Smokey Bear.**

18 (4) Except as otherwise required by the design chosen, the plates shall comply with the re-  
19 quirements of ORS 803.535. The department shall determine how many sets of plates shall be man-  
20 ufactured for each group approved under this section. If the department does not sell or issue  
21 renewal for 500 sets of plates for a particular group in any one year, the department shall cease  
22 production of those plates.

23 (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this section, each group that is found by  
24 the department to be eligible for plates issued under this section may designate an account into  
25 which the net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department under subsection (2) of this  
26 section are to be deposited. The department shall keep accurate records of the number of plates is-  
27 sued for each group that qualifies. After payment of administrative expenses of the department,  
28 moneys collected under this section for each group shall be deposited by the department into an  
29 account specified by that group. If any group does not specify an account for the moneys collected  
30 from the sale of plates issued under this section, the department shall deposit moneys collected for  
31 those plates into the Passenger Rail Transportation Account established under ORS 802.100 to be  
32 used as other moneys in the account are used. Deposits under this subsection shall be made at least  
33 quarterly.

34 (6)(a) Each institution of higher education that requests a plate under this section shall desig-  
35 nate an account in the general fund of the institution, and the proceeds in the account shall be used  
36 for the purpose of academic enrichment at the institution.

37 (b) Net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department for Share the Road registration  
38 plates shall be deposited into two accounts designated by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and  
39 Cycle Oregon. The department shall evenly distribute the net proceeds to each account. Deposits  
40 under this paragraph shall be made at least quarterly. At any time that the department determines  
41 that the accounts designated by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Cycle Oregon cease to  
42 exist, the department may deposit the proceeds into the [*Environmental Quality Information*  
43 *Account*] **Passenger Rail Transportation Account** established under ORS 802.100.

44 (c) **Net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department for a group that promotes**  
45 **the prevention of wildfires shall be deposited in an account designated by the Keep Oregon**

1 **Green Association and shall be used for paying the expenses of promoting the prevention of**  
2 **wildfires in Oregon. Deposits under this paragraph shall be made at least quarterly. At any**  
3 **time that the department determines that the account designated by the Keep Oregon Green**  
4 **Association ceases to exist, the department may no longer issue a plate with the image of**  
5 **Smokey Bear.**

6 (7) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the department shall design a Share the Road  
7 registration plate in consultation with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Cycle Oregon.

8 **SECTION 2. The State Forestry Department, in collaboration with the Keep Oregon**  
9 **Green Association, shall apply to the federal government for permission to use the image of**  
10 **Smokey Bear on registration plates for a group that promotes the prevention of wildfires.**

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