

**LICENSE PLATE REQUIREMENTS**

2002 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Brad King**

**This act modifies the Motor Vehicle Code to eliminate the county designation decal from license plates.**

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

**41-1a-402**, as last amended by Chapter 238, Laws of Utah 1999

**41-1a-407**, as last amended by Chapter 25, Laws of Utah 2000

REPEALS:

**41-1a-406**, as renumbered and amended by Chapter 1, Laws of Utah 1992

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

Section 1. Section **41-1a-402** is amended to read:

**41-1a-402. Required colors, numerals, and letters -- Expiration.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (3) and in Section 41-1a-407, each license plate shall be in colors selected by the commission and shall have displayed on it:

- (a) the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued;
- (b) the name of the state;

~~[(c) a designation of the county in which the vehicle is registered as provided in Section 41-1a-406;]~~

~~[(d)]~~ (c) a registration decal showing the date of expiration; and

~~[(e)]~~ (d) a slogan determined as provided in Section 41-1a-405.

(2) If registration is extended by affixing a registration decal to the license plate, the expiration date of the decal governs the expiration date of the license plate.

(3) Each original license plate that is not one of the special group license plates issued under Section 41-1a-408 shall be a:

- (a) statehood centennial license plate with the same color, design, and slogan as the plates issued in conjunction with the statehood centennial; or

(b) Ski Utah license plate.

Section 2. Section **41-1a-407** is amended to read:

**41-1a-407. Plates issued to political subdivisions or state -- Use of "EX" letters --**

**Confidential information.**

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), each municipality, board of education, school district, state institution of learning, county, other governmental division, subdivision, or district, and the state shall:

(a) place a license plate displaying the letters, "EX" on every vehicle owned and operated by it or leased for its exclusive use; and

(b) display an identification mark designating the vehicle as the property of the entity in a conspicuous place on both sides of the vehicle.

(2) The entity need not display the "EX" license plate or the identification mark required by Subsection (1) if:

(a) the vehicle is in the direct service of the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor, or state treasurer of Utah;

(b) the vehicle is used in official investigative work where secrecy is essential;

(c) the vehicle is used in an organized Utah Highway Patrol operation that is:

(i) approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety;

(ii) utilizing no more than one unmarked vehicle for each operation; and

(iii) targeted toward:

(A) violations of Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 5, Driving While Intoxicated and Reckless Driving;

(B) speeding violations for exceeding the posted speed limit by 21 or more miles per hour;

(C) speeding violations in a reduced speed school zone under Section 41-6-48.5;

(D) violations of Section 41-6-78 related to pedestrian crosswalks; or

(E) violations of Section 41-6-53.5 related to lane restrictions;

(d) the vehicle is provided to an official of the entity as part of a compensation package allowing unlimited personal use of that vehicle; or

(e) the personal security of the occupants of the vehicle would be jeopardized if the "EX" license plate were in place.

(3) Plates issued to Utah Highway Patrol vehicles may bear the capital letters "UHP," a beehive logo, and the call number of the vehicle for which the plate is issued.

(4) The commission shall issue "EX" and "UHP" plates and shall make rules establishing the procedure for application for and distribution of the plates.

(5) For a vehicle that qualifies for "EX" or "UHP" license plates, the entity is not required to display an annual registration decal [~~or a county designation under Section 41-1a-402~~].

(6) (a) Information shall be confidential for vehicles that are not required to display the "EX" license plate or the identification mark under Subsections (2)(a), (b), and (d).

(b) (i) If a law enforcement officer's identity must be kept secret, his agency head may request in writing that the division remove the license plate information of the officer's personal vehicles from all public access files and place it in a confidential file until the assignment is completed.

(ii) The agency head shall notify the division when the assignment is completed.

**Section 3. Repealer.**

This act repeals:

**Section 41-1a-406, County designations on decals -- Design by commission.**