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**LICENSE PLATE OPTIONS**

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Val L. Peterson**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill designates the In God We Trust license plate as one of the standard issue license plates.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ adds the In God We Trust license plate as one of the standard options available; and
- ▶ removes the In God We Trust license plate from the list of special group license plates.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**41-1a-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 412

**41-1a-418**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 37

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*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.**

H.B. 127



- 28 (1) Each license plate shall have displayed on it:  
29 (a) the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued;  
30 (b) the name of the state; and  
31 (c) a registration decal showing the date of expiration displayed in accordance with  
32 Subsection (6).
- 33 (2) If registration is extended by affixing a registration decal to the license plate, the  
34 expiration date of the decal governs the expiration date of the license plate.
- 35 (3) Except as provided in Subsection (4), each original license plate that is not one of  
36 the special group license plates issued under Section 41-1a-418 shall be [a]:  
37 (a) a statehood centennial license plate with the same color, design, and slogan as the  
38 plates issued in conjunction with the statehood centennial; [or]  
39 (b) a Ski Utah license plate[-]; or  
40 (c) an In God We Trust license plate.
- 41 (4) Beginning on the date that the division determines the existing inventories of  
42 statehood centennial license plates and Ski Utah license plates are exhausted, each license plate  
43 that is not one of the special group license plates issued under Section 41-1a-418 shall:  
44 (a) (i) display the "Life Elevated" slogan; and  
45 (b) (ii) have a color and design approved by the 57th Legislature in the 2007 General  
46 Session that features:  
47 (i) (A) a skier with the "Greatest Snow on Earth" slogan; or  
48 (i) (B) Delicate Arch[-]; or  
49 (b) be an In God We Trust license plate.
- 50 (5) (a) Except as provided under Subsection 41-1a-215(2), license plates shall be  
51 renewed annually.  
52 (b) (i) The division shall issue the vehicle owner a month decal and a year decal upon  
53 the vehicle's first registration with the division.  
54 (ii) The division shall issue the vehicle owner only a year decal upon subsequent  
55 renewals of registration to validate registration renewal.
- 56 (6) The decals issued in accordance with Subsection (5) shall be applied as follows:  
57 (a) for license plates issued beginning in 1974 through 1985, decals displayed on  
58 license plates with black lettering on a white background shall be applied to the lower left-hand

59 corner of the rear of the license plate vehicles;

60 (b) decals displayed on statehood centennial license plates and on Ski Utah license  
61 plates issued in accordance with Subsection (3) shall be applied to the upper left-hand corner of  
62 the rear license plate;

63 (c) decals displayed on special group license plates issued in accordance with Section  
64 41-1a-418 shall be applied to the upper right-hand corner of the license plate unless there is a  
65 plate indentation on the upper left-hand corner of the license plate;

66 (d) decals displayed on license plates with the "Life Elevated" slogan issued in  
67 accordance with Subsection (4) shall be applied in the upper left-hand corner for the month  
68 decal and the upper right-hand corner for the year decal;

69 (e) decals displayed on license plates with the "In God We Trust" slogan issued in  
70 accordance with Subsection (4)(b) shall be applied in the upper right-hand corner of the rear  
71 license plate unless there is a plate indentation on the upper left-hand corner of the license  
72 plate;

73 [~~e~~] (f) decals issued for truck tractors shall be applied to the front license plate in the  
74 position described in Subsection (6)(a), (b), or (d);

75 [~~f~~] (g) decals issued for motorcycles shall be applied to the upper corner of the license  
76 plate opposite the word "Utah"; and

77 [~~g~~] (h) decals displayed on license plates issued under Section 41-1a-416 shall be  
78 applied as appropriate for the year of the plate.

79 (7) (a) The month decal issued in accordance with Subsection (5) shall be displayed on  
80 the license plate in the left position.

81 (b) The year decal issued in accordance with Subsection (5) shall be displayed on the  
82 license plate in the right position.

83 (8) The current year decal issued in accordance with Subsection (5) shall be placed  
84 over the previous year decal.

85 (9) If a license plate, month decal, or year decal is lost or destroyed, a replacement shall  
86 be issued upon application and payment of the fees required under Section 41-1a-1211 or  
87 41-1a-1212.

88 (10) A violation of this section is an infraction.

89 Section 2. Section 41-1a-418 is amended to read:

90 **41-1a-418. Authorized special group license plates.**

91 (1) The division shall only issue special group license plates in accordance with this  
92 section through Section 41-1a-422 to a person who is specified under this section within the  
93 categories listed as follows:

94 (a) disability special group license plates issued in accordance with Section 41-1a-420;

95 (b) honor special group license plates, as in a war hero, which plates are issued for a:

96 (i) survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;

97 (ii) former prisoner of war;

98 (iii) recipient of a Purple Heart;

99 (iv) disabled veteran; or

100 (v) recipient of a gold star award issued by the United States Secretary of Defense;

101 (c) unique vehicle type special group license plates, as for historical, collectors value,  
102 or other unique vehicle type, which plates are issued for:

103 (i) a special interest vehicle;

104 (ii) a vintage vehicle;

105 (iii) a farm truck; or

106 (iv) (A) until Subsection (1)(c)(iv)(B) or (4) applies, a vehicle powered by clean fuel as  
107 defined in Section 59-13-102; or

108 (B) beginning on the effective date of rules made by the Department of Transportation  
109 authorized under Subsection 41-6a-702(5)(b) and until Subsection (4) applies, a vehicle  
110 powered by clean fuel that meets the standards established by the Department of Transportation  
111 in rules authorized under Subsection 41-6a-702(5)(b);

112 (d) recognition special group license plates, which plates are issued for:

113 (i) a current member of the Legislature;

114 (ii) a current member of the United States Congress;

115 (iii) a current member of the National Guard;

116 (iv) a licensed amateur radio operator;

117 (v) a currently employed, volunteer, or retired firefighter until June 30, 2009;

118 (vi) an emergency medical technician;

119 (vii) a current member of a search and rescue team; or

120 (viii) a current honorary consulate designated by the United States Department of

121 State; ~~[or]~~  
122  ~~[(ix) an individual that wants to recognize and honor American freedoms and values~~  
123  ~~through an In God We Trust license plate;]~~  
124 (e) support special group license plates, as for a contributor to an institution or cause,  
125 which plates are issued for a contributor to:  
126 (i) an institution's scholastic scholarship fund;  
127 (ii) the Division of Wildlife Resources;  
128 (iii) the Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs;  
129 (iv) the Division of Parks and Recreation;  
130 (v) the Department of Agriculture and Food;  
131 (vi) the Guardian Ad Litem Services Account and the Children's Museum of Utah;  
132 (vii) the Boy Scouts of America;  
133 (viii) spay and neuter programs through No More Homeless Pets in Utah;  
134 (ix) the Boys and Girls Clubs of America;  
135 (x) Utah public education;  
136 (xi) programs that provide support to organizations that create affordable housing for  
137 those in severe need through the Division of Real Estate;  
138 (xii) the Department of Public Safety;  
139 (xiii) programs that support Zion National Park;  
140 (xiv) beginning on July 1, 2009, programs that provide support to firefighter  
141 organizations;  
142 (xv) programs that promote bicycle operation and safety awareness;  
143 (xvi) programs that conduct or support cancer research;  
144 (xvii) programs that create or support autism awareness;  
145 (xviii) programs that create or support humanitarian service and educational and  
146 cultural exchanges;  
147 (xix) programs that conduct or support prostate cancer awareness, screening, detection,  
148 or prevention;  
149 (xx) programs that support and promote adoptions;  
150 (xxi) programs that create or support civil rights education and awareness; or  
151 (xxii) programs that support issues affecting women and children through an

152 organization affiliated with a national professional men's basketball organization.

153 (2) (a) The division may not issue a new type of special group license plate unless the  
154 division receives:

155 (i) (A) a private donation for the start-up fee established under Section 63J-1-504 for  
156 the production and administrative costs of providing the new special group license plates; or

157 (B) a legislative appropriation for the start-up fee provided under Subsection  
158 (2)(a)(i)(A); and

159 (ii) beginning on January 1, 2012, and for the issuance of a support special group  
160 license plate authorized in Section 41-1a-422, at least 500 completed applications for the new  
161 type of support special group license plate to be issued with all fees required under this part for  
162 the support special group license plate issuance paid by each applicant.

163 (b) (i) Beginning on January 1, 2012, each participating organization shall collect and  
164 hold applications for support special group license plates authorized in Section 41-1a-422 on or  
165 after January 1, 2012, until it has received at least 500 applications.

166 (ii) Once a participating organization has received at least 500 applications, it shall  
167 submit the applications, along with the necessary fees, to the division for the division to begin  
168 working on the design and issuance of the new type of support special group license plate to be  
169 issued.

170 (iii) Beginning on January 1, 2012, the division may not work on the issuance or design  
171 of a new support special group license plate authorized in Section 41-1a-422 until the  
172 applications and fees required under this Subsection (2) have been received by the division.

173 (iv) The division shall begin issuance of a new support special group license plate  
174 authorized in Section 41-1a-422 on or after January 1, 2012, no later than six months after  
175 receiving the applications and fees required under this Subsection (2).

176 (c) (i) Beginning on July 1, 2009, the division may not renew a motor vehicle  
177 registration of a motor vehicle that has been issued a firefighter recognition special group  
178 license plate unless the applicant is a contributor as defined in Subsection  
179 41-1a-422(1)(a)(ii)(D) to the Firefighter Support Restricted Account.

180 (ii) A registered owner of a vehicle that has been issued a firefighter recognition  
181 special group license plate prior to July 1, 2009, upon renewal of the owner's motor vehicle  
182 registration shall:

183 (A) be a contributor to the Firefighter Support Restricted Account as required under  
184 Subsection (2)(c)(i); or

185 (B) replace the firefighter recognition special group license plate with a new license  
186 plate.

187 (3) (a) Beginning on July 1, 2011, if a support special group license plate type  
188 authorized in Section 41-1a-422 and issued on or after January 1, 2012, has fewer than 500  
189 license plates issued each year for a three consecutive year time period that begins on July 1,  
190 the division may not issue that type of support special group license plate to a new applicant  
191 beginning on January 1 of the following calendar year after the three consecutive year time  
192 period for which that type of support special group license plate has fewer than 500 license  
193 plates issued each year.

194 (b) If the division is required to stop the issuance of a type of support special group  
195 license plate authorized in Section 41-1a-422 under this Subsection (3), the division shall  
196 report to the Transportation Interim Committee that the division will stop the issuance on or  
197 before the November interim meeting of the year in which the commission determines to stop  
198 the issuance of that type of support special group license plate.

199 (4) Beginning on July 1, 2011, the division may not issue to an applicant a unique  
200 vehicle type license plate for a vehicle powered by clean fuel under Subsection (1)(c)(iv).

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**