Senator Wayne A. Harper proposes the following substitute bill:

PERSONAL LICENSE PLATE AMENDMENTS
2020 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla
House Sponsor: {____________}Marc K. Roberts

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill {amends provisions related to} prohibits the {Motor Vehicle Division’s authority to deny a} issuance of new personalized license plates.

Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:

allows the Motor Vehicle Division to refuse to issue a license plate if the Motor Vehicle Division determines that the combination of letters and numbers disparages an individual or group of people based on certain protected classes; and

prohibits the {Motor Vehicle Division from denying a} issuance of new personalized license plates if the requested letters, numbers, or combination of both refer to an official state symbol;

allows an individual to keep current personalized license plates; and
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 41-1a-411 is amended to read:

41-1a-411. Application for personalized plates -- Refusal authorized.

(1) An applicant for personalized license plates or renewal of the plates shall file an application for the plates in the form and by the date the division requires, indicating the combination of letters, numbers, or both requested as a registration number.

(2) (a) Beginning on July 1, 2020, the division may no longer accept applications or issue personalized license plates.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a), the division may accept an application for renewal of personalized license plates.

(3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the division may refuse to issue or revoke any combination of letters, numbers, or both that:

(i) may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or that would be misleading;

(ii) disparage a person or group based on:

(A) race;

(B) color;

(C) national origin;

(D) religion;

(E) age;

(F) gender;
(G) sexual orientation;  
(H) citizenship status; or  
(I) physical or mental disability.

(b) The division may refuse to issue a combination of letters, numbers, or both as a registration number if that same combination is already in use as a registration number on an existing license plate.

(3) (4) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b) or (3)(b) or (4), the division may not refuse a combination of letters, numbers, or both as a registration number if:

(i) the license plate is an honor special group license plate as described in Section 41-1a-421 and;

(ii) the combination of letters, numbers, or both refers to:

(A) a year related to military service;

(B) a military branch; or

(C) an official achievement, badge, or honor received for military service.

(b) If an applicant requests a combination containing only numbers, the division may refuse the combination if the combination includes less than four numerical digits.