STATE OF NEW YORK

8640

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 22, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WILLIAMS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to creating distinctive license plates for funeral service vehicles

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds and declares that:

1. Recognition of essential services. Funeral service providers offer critical support to families and communities during times of crisis and loss.

2. Precedent in other states. Texas issues professional license plates for categories such as emergency medical services personnel, peace officers, and professional firefighters, recognizing the unique nature of their work.

3. Traffic and procession benefits. The identification of funeral service vehicles can facilitate processions, allowing for greater coordination with law enforcement and traffic control.

§ 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 404-ff to read as follows:

§ 404-ff. Distinctive plates for New York state licensed funeral homes or funeral directors. 1. Any New York state funeral home or funeral director licensed pursuant to title two of article thirty-four of the public health law shall, upon request, be issued a license plate formatted at the discretion of the department bearing the words "funeral service vehicle" or similar and a unique design in order to distinguish it from standard commercial or passenger plates. Such license plates shall be reserved for vehicles operating for the purpose of transporting human remains. Such license plate need not contain the statue of liberty logo. Application for such license plate shall be filed with the commis-

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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sioner in such form and detail as the commissioner shall prescribe, and shall be verified annually by the applicant.

2. The distinctive plate authorized in subdivision one of this section shall be issued upon proof, satisfactory to the commissioner, that the applicant is presently an owner or representative of a licensed funeral home or funeral director in the state of New York.

3. A distinctive plate issued pursuant to this section shall be issued in the same manner as other number plates upon payment of the regular registration fee prescribed by section four hundred one of this article.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.