

SB3197



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3197

Introduced 2/2/2026, by Sen. Sue Rezin

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/3-808.1

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that permanent vehicle registration plates shall be issued, at no charge, to municipally owned, fire district owned, or Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) owned vehicles operated by volunteer firefighters for any fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS. Requires the registration plates to display the designation "Volunteer Firefighter" and the specific fire department, fire district, fire unit, or MABAS division number or letter.

LRB104 19066 LNS 32511 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by
5 changing Section 3-808.1 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/3-808.1)

7 Sec. 3-808.1. Permanent vehicle registration plate.

8 (a) Permanent vehicle registration plates shall be issued,
9 at no charge, to the following:

10 1. Vehicles, other than medical transport vehicles,
11 owned and operated by the State of Illinois or by any State
12 agency financed by funds appropriated by the General
13 Assembly;

14 2. Special disability plates issued to vehicles owned
15 and operated by the State of Illinois or by any State
16 agency financed by funds appropriated by the General
17 Assembly.

18 (b) Permanent vehicle registration plates shall be issued,
19 for a one-time fee of \$8.00, to the following:

20 1. Vehicles, other than medical transport vehicles,
21 operated by or for any county, township or municipal
22 corporation.

23 2. Vehicles owned by counties, townships or municipal

1 corporations for persons with disabilities.

2 3. Beginning with the 1991 registration year,
3 county-owned vehicles operated by or for any county
4 sheriff and designated deputy sheriffs. These registration
5 plates shall contain the specific county code and unit
6 number.

7 4. All-terrain vehicles owned by counties, townships,
8 or municipal corporations and used for law enforcement
9 purposes or used as fire department vehicles when the
10 Manufacturer's Statement of Origin is accompanied with a
11 letter from the original manufacturer or a manufacturer's
12 franchised dealer stating that this all-terrain vehicle
13 has been converted to a street worthy vehicle that meets
14 the equipment requirements set forth in Chapter 12 of this
15 Code.

16 5. Beginning with the 2001 registration year,
17 municipally owned vehicles operated by or for any police
18 department. These registration plates shall contain the
19 designation "municipal police" and shall be numbered and
20 distributed as prescribed by the Secretary of State.

21 6. Beginning with the 2014 registration year,
22 municipally owned, fire district owned, or Mutual Aid Box
23 Alarm System (MABAS) owned vehicles operated by or for any
24 fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS. These
25 registration plates shall display the designation "Fire
26 Department" and shall display the specific fire

1 department, fire district, fire unit, or MABAS division
2 number or letter.

3 6.5. Beginning with the 2027 registration year,
4 municipally owned, fire district owned, or Mutual Aid Box
5 Alarm System (MABAS) owned vehicles operated by volunteer
6 firefighters for any fire department, fire protection
7 district, or MABAS. These registration plates shall
8 display the designation "Volunteer Firefighter" and shall
9 display the specific fire department, fire district, fire
10 unit, or MABAS division number or letter.

11 7. Beginning with the 2017 registration year, vehicles
12 that do not require a school bus driver permit under
13 Section 6-104 to operate and are not registered under
14 Section 3-617 of this Code, and are owned by a public
15 school district from grades K-12 or a public community
16 college.

17 8. Beginning with the 2017 registration year, vehicles
18 of the first division or vehicles of the second division
19 weighing not more than 8,000 pounds that are owned by a
20 medical facility or hospital of a municipality, county, or
21 township.

22 9. Beginning with the 2020 registration year, 2-axle
23 motor vehicles that (i) are designed and used as buses in a
24 public system for transporting more than 10 passengers;
25 (ii) are used as common carriers in the general
26 transportation of passengers and not devoted to any

1 specialized purpose; (iii) operate entirely within the
2 territorial limits of a single municipality or a single
3 municipality and contiguous municipalities; and (iv) are
4 subject to the regulation of the Illinois Commerce
5 Commission. The owner of a vehicle under this paragraph is
6 exempt from paying a flat weight tax or a mileage weight
7 tax under this Code.

8 10. Beginning with the 2027 registration year,
9 vehicles owned by a municipality or fire protection
10 district operated by or for the emergency medical services
11 (EMS) chief that are eligible for issuance of EMS chief
12 license plates under Section 3-699.26.

13 (b-5) Beginning with the 2016 registration year, permanent
14 vehicle registration plates shall be issued for a one-time fee
15 of \$8.00 to a county, township, or municipal corporation that
16 owns or operates vehicles used for the purpose of community
17 workplace commuting as defined by the Secretary of State by
18 administrative rule. The design and color of the plates shall
19 be wholly within the discretion of the Secretary. The
20 Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement this
21 subsection (b-5).

22 (c) Beginning with the 2012 registration year,
23 county-owned vehicles operated by or for any county sheriff
24 and designated deputy sheriffs that have been issued
25 registration plates under subsection (b) of this Section shall
26 be exempt from any fee for the transfer of registration from

1 one vehicle to another vehicle. Each county sheriff shall
2 report to the Secretary of State any transfer of registration
3 plates from one vehicle to another vehicle operated by or for
4 any county sheriff and designated deputy sheriffs. The
5 Secretary of State shall adopt rules to implement this
6 subsection (c).

7 (c-5) Beginning with the 2014 registration year,
8 municipally owned, fire district owned, or Mutual Aid Box
9 Alarm System (MABAS) owned vehicles operated by or for any
10 fire department, fire protection district, or MABAS that have
11 been issued registration plates under subsection (b) of this
12 Section shall be exempt from any fee for the transfer of
13 registration from one vehicle to another vehicle. Each fire
14 department, fire protection district, of MABAS shall report to
15 the Secretary of State any transfer of registration plates
16 from one vehicle to another vehicle operated by or for any fire
17 department, fire protection district, or MABAS. The Secretary
18 of State shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.

19 (d) Beginning with the 2013 registration year, municipally
20 owned vehicles operated by or for any police department that
21 have been issued registration plates under subsection (b) of
22 this Section shall be exempt from any fee for the transfer of
23 registration from one vehicle to another vehicle. Each
24 municipal police department shall report to the Secretary of
25 State any transfer of registration plates from one vehicle to
26 another vehicle operated by or for any municipal police

1 department. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules to
2 implement this subsection (d).

3 (e) Beginning with the 2016 registration year, any vehicle
4 owned or operated by a county, township, or municipal
5 corporation that has been issued registration plates under
6 this Section is exempt from any fee for the transfer of
7 registration from one vehicle to another vehicle. Each county,
8 township, or municipal corporation shall report to the
9 Secretary of State any transfer of registration plates from
10 one vehicle to another vehicle operated by or for any county,
11 township, or municipal corporation.

12 (f) Beginning with the 2020 registration year, any vehicle
13 owned or operated by a public school district from grades
14 K-12, a public community college, or a medical facility or
15 hospital of a municipality, county, or township that has been
16 issued registration plates under this Section is exempt from
17 any fee for the transfer of registration from one vehicle to
18 another vehicle. Each school district, public community
19 college, or medical facility or hospital shall report to the
20 Secretary any transfer of registration plates from one vehicle
21 to another vehicle operated by the school district, public
22 community college, or medical facility.

23 (g) Beginning with the 2025 registration year, vehicles
24 owned or operated by or for a private or public university
25 police department or a private or public college police
26 department, except for motor driven cycles and all-terrain

1 vehicles, may be registered under subsection (b) of this
2 Section. These registration plates shall contain the
3 designation "university police" or "college police" and shall
4 be numbered and distributed as prescribed by the Secretary of
5 State.

6 (Source: P.A. 103-135, eff. 1-1-24; 104-213, eff. 1-1-26;
7 104-304, eff. 8-15-25; revised 11-21-25.)