

CCS#2 HCS SB 254 -- MOTOR VEHICLES

This bill changes the laws regarding license plates and intoxication-related offenses.

LICENSE PLATES

Currently, the license plates on trailers, motorcycles, motortricycles, and motorscooters must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle with the letters and numbers right side up. The bill allows the license plates to be displayed horizontally or vertically with the letters and numbers plainly visible.

The bill adds assistant physicians and physical therapists to the list of authorized health care practitioners who may issue a statement for his or her patient to receive a disabled placard or license plate.

The bill changes the requirements for a notice of transfer of interest in a motor vehicle to the Department of Revenue to require the name of the transferor, allows for the electronic signature of the transferor, and allows the notice to be effective even though it contains minor errors that are not materially misleading.

The bill allows any individual who has received the Korea Defense Service Medal to apply for special motor vehicle license plates bearing the words "KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL." To obtain the plates, he or she must submit an application to the Director of the Department of Revenue, furnish proof of eligibility for the plates as the department director may require, and pay a \$15 fee in addition to the regular registration fee. There must not be any additional fee for the personalization of the license plates. The plates are not transferable to any other person, but in the event of the death of a qualified person, a registered co-owner of the vehicle must be entitled to operate the vehicle with the plates until they expire.

The bill requires the \$10 contribution to obtain a God Bless America license plate to be made to the World War I Memorial Trust Fund instead of the World War II Memorial Fund.

INTOXICATION-RELATION OFFENSES

The bill:

(1) Allows the Department of Revenue to extend the period a motorist is required to maintain the ignition interlock device on his or her vehicle by three months if the ignition interlock device detects an attempt to tamper with the device or detects an alcohol

concentration above the set point within the last three months of the required installation period. The time must be extended until he or she has gone three months without any violations;

(2) Expands the list of offenses for which an individual can be allowed to receive limited driving privileges if any motor vehicle he or she operates has a functioning, certified ignition interlock device;

(3) Removes the mandatory suspension period for an alcohol-related offense but requires an individual to have an ignition interlock device installed on his or her vehicle. Currently, except for a first-time DWI offense, an alcohol-related driving offense requires a specified period of suspension before an individual is eligible for limited or restricted driving privileges;

(4) Removes the prohibition on DWI courts from granting limited driving privileges to a participant during the first 45 days of participation;

(5) Defines "continuous alcohol monitoring" as automatically testing breath, blood, or transdermal alcohol concentration levels and tampering attempts at least once every hour and regularly transmitting the data; and

(6) Authorizes a court to order a defendant to submit to continuous alcohol monitoring or verifiable breath alcohol testing performed a minimum of four times a day for any driving while intoxicated, driving with an excessive blood alcohol content, boating while intoxicated, or boating with an excessive blood alcohol content offense.

The provisions regarding intoxication-related offenses become effective January 1, 2017.