

HOUSE No. 3790

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, June 23, 1966.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Distinctive license plates were first issued to "ham" radio operators during 1965. This was in recognition of the significant service which they perform at times when normal communications are disrupted. A case in point is the Alaskan earthquake disaster of two years ago when, for over eighteen hours, the only link between Alaska and the outside world was provided by amateur radio operators.

When these plates were first issued, there was no extra fee charged. Under the so-called "vanity" license plate law which went into effect early this year, it appears that a \$9 "issuance" fee will be charged for such amateur radio license plates.

Since it appears that the issuance fee should not be charged for license plates issued to a group performing most valuable public services in times of emergency, I enclose herewith legislation which would remedy this situation. This legislation would require amateur radio operators receiving plates which display their call signal to pay the \$6 registration fee required for all private passenger motor vehicles, but would exempt them from paying the \$9 "vanity" plate fee. I urge that you give it your prompt approval.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. VOLPE,
Governor of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six.

AN ACT MODIFYING THE ISSUANCE FEE FOR CERTAIN DISTINCTIVE INITIAL PLATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 33 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as most recently
2 amended by chapter 819 of the acts of 1965, is hereby amended
3 by striking out the second paragraph and inserting in place
4 thereof the following paragraph:—

5 For the registration of every motor vehicle, the fee for which
6 is not herein otherwise provided, six dollars; and, for the issu-
7 ance in connection therewith, at the request of the applicant,
8 (a) of a distinctive initial plate, other than a plate displaying
9 the call sign of a federally licensed amateur radio operator, or
10 (b) of a particular number plate other than a distinctive initial
11 plate, nine dollars, or two dollars, respectively.