

# LB1105

Create an Autism Acceptance speciality license plate. (As amended by AM1851)

## Specialty License Plates in Nebraska

Currently, Nebraska offers 37 options for specialty license plates. To the right is the list of specialty plates that have been passed by the Legislature since 2010. Other message plates not on this list have been established using the DMV's application process.

Type of Plate	Year	Committee Vote	Final Reading Floor Vote
Historical	2021	8-0	39-0-1
Josh the Otter Water Safety	2021	8-0	41-0-8
UNMC Cancer Research	2019	8-0	49-0
Choose Life	2017	8-0	35-5-9
Native American History	2017	8-0	49-0
Breast Cancer Awareness	2016	8-0	49-0
Mountain Lion Conservation	2015	7-1	47-0-2
Nebraska 150	2015	8-0	49-0
Military Honor	2013	8-0	48-0-1

## Autism License Plates Nationwide

License plates that highlight Autism are an option that many states have, but Nebraska does not currently offer. Currently, 29 states have some form of Autism specialty license plate. Adding Nebraska to this list would give families across the state a chance to highlight something that is so central to someone they love. Additionally, Autism license plates have had a secondary effect of alerting officers that someone in a vehicle may have challenges associated with Autism, before a traffic stop.

The following states offer an Autism license plate: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

## Creating an Autism Acceptance Plate in Nebraska

LB1105 would create an Autism Acceptance license plate. Non-message Autism Acceptance Plates would carry an extra \$5 fee, and message plates would carry an additional \$40 fee. Excess funds generated by the Autism Acceptance license plates would go to the newly created Department of Education Autism Spectrum Disorder Cash Fund. This fund would then grant out the money to Nebraska-based all volunteer direct service organizations dedicated to serving those with Autism and their families.

## AM1851 Amendment, Moving to Autism Acceptance

As originally drafted, LB1105 would have been an "Autism Awareness" license plate. After talking with many in the Autism community, we decided to adopt language which is generally preferred, "Autism Acceptance." You should have this amendment attached to your fact sheet, which is AM1851. As put by Christopher Banks, president of the Autism Society of America, "While we will always work to spread awareness, words matter as we strive for autistic individuals to live fully in all areas of life. As many individuals and families affected by autism know, acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to finding and developing a strong support system."