

Re: Request to Discontinue "Unlocking Autism" License Plate

From: Easley, Carolyn (DMV) (carolyn.easley@dmv.virginia.gov)

To: mooneyam@vcu.edu

Cc: platedevelopment@dmv.virginia.gov

Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 01:37 PM EDT

Hello Anna,

The standard font and position of "VIRGINIA" at the top of the plate must remain the same, exceptions are made for the color.

Based on your questions below it appears you are seeking new legislation to develop an additional autism license plate.

Keep in mind the legislator must complete form VSA 155. The question " Will you be supporting this license plate bill under these requirements including the attached preliminary design? YES NO " Is located under IMPORTANT INFORMATION section. If the legislator does not support this requirement an explanation must be noted in the section labeled "If No, Explain:".

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out.

Carolyn Wade-Easley

License Plate Development

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

(804) 367-0368 | carolyn.easley@dmv.virginia.gov | dmv.virginia.gov

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From: Anna Mooney <mooneyam@vcu.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 8:31 AM

To: Easley, Carolyn (DMV) <carolyn.easley@dmv.virginia.gov>

Cc: PlateDevelopment (DMV) <PlateDevelopment@dmv.virginia.gov>

Subject: Re: Request to Discontinue "Unlocking Autism" License Plate

Thank you Carolyn for the organization's information.

I have a question when it comes to the design of special interests plates. I found the design guidelines and the media artwork section on the development process for special interests plates PDF. One of the bullet points mentions: "The standard font, color (blue), and location of VIRGINIA (positioned at the top of the license plate) must be maintained." I've noticed a few plates have Virginia in white, red, and one even has a different color for each letter. Also, there are a couple with Virginia at the bottom.

By chance are there exceptions to Virginia being blue and at the top of the plate?

Oh, another question step 1B mentions: "The form [VSA 155] also indicates whether the authorization will waive the 450 prepaid applications." I can't seem to locate where on form VSA 155 the legislator would waive the prepaid

applications. Am I reading this statement correctly? It's probably if the legislator checks non revenue sharing, but I want to confirm my assumption.

Thank you again for your time answering my questions as I go through this process.

Anna Mooney
Autism Self-Advocate
804-301-7334
mooneyam@vcu.edu

On Fri, Oct 18, 2024 at 10:53 AM, Easley, Carolyn (DMV)
<carolyn.easley@dmv.virginia.gov> wrote:

Hello Anna,

Thank you for your interest in updating our Unlocking Autism special license plate. This license plate and design was supported by Unlocking Autism, Baton Rouge, LA 70835 back in 2002. I suggest you reach out to them regarding your efforts.

Let me know if you have any additional questions. Have a great day!

Carolyn Wade-Easley

License Plate Development

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

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From: Anna Mooney <mooneyam@vcu.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 8:47 AM

To: Easley, Carolyn (DMV) <carolyn.easley@dmv.virginia.gov>

Cc: Ann Flippin <ann.flippin@ascv.org>; PlateDevelopment (DMV) <PlateDevelopment@dmv.virginia.gov>

Subject: Request to Discontinue "Unlocking Autism" License Plate

Dear Ms. Easley,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Anna Mooney, and I am a student in the Va-LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) program at Virginia Commonwealth University. As part of my leadership project, I am collaborating with the Autism Society of Central Virginia (ASCV) to advocate for the establishment of a new autism-themed license plate that better reflects the current needs and sentiments of the autism community.

I would like to bring to your attention the existing "Unlocking Autism" plate ([46.2-749.60.Acts 2002](#)). While I appreciate the intention behind it, I believe that the message it conveys is outdated and does not effectively represent the diverse voices within the autism community. Additionally, it has come to my attention that this plate does not participate in revenue sharing, which limits its potential to support autism-related initiatives in our state ([46.2-749.61.Repealed by Acts 2011](#)).

Given these concerns, I would like to formally request that the Virginia DMV consider retiring the "Unlocking Autism" license plate from the selection options for new plates. I believe this would open the door for a more relevant and supportive design that truly resonates with our community.

If there are specific processes that must be followed to initiate this request, I am more than willing to assist in any way necessary. My goal is to collaborate with ASCV and ensure that the new plate effectively represents and supports individuals with autism and their families.

I have cc'd Ann Flippin, the Executive Director of ASCV, in this email to keep her informed and involved in this process.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your guidance on how we can move forward together.

Best regards,

Anna Mooney
Autism Self-Advocate
804-301-7334
mooneyam@vcu.edu

CC: Ann Flippin
Executive Director, Autism Society of Central Virginia