



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

www.sos.ne.gov

For Release

January 26, 2015

Contact: Laura Strimple
402-471-8408
laura.strimple@nebraska.gov

Testimony supports creation of sesquicentennial license plates

LINCOLN – Will Nebraska drivers have a new state license plate to choose from before the end of the year? Secretary of State John Gale hopes so. Speaking as chairman of the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission, he testified before the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee in support of LB 220, which would create a license plate celebrating the state's 150th anniversary.

"The sesquicentennial will be a significant and meaningful event for all Nebraskans. We use signs and slogans on our cars to show support for many causes," said Gale. "This is another way to promote our state pride, not just among our citizens, but to other states as well."

Gale said timing of the bill is both critical and appropriate. If it clears all hurdles by spring and a design is given final approval by the Department of Motor Vehicles in August or September, then production of the plates could begin before the end of the year.

"We want to maximize the opportunity to raise proceeds through the sale of special license plates that can then be converted to grants distributed to organizations and groups which are planning events in 2017," Gale said. "As proposed, this legislation would allow us to sell plates starting this year, through 2017."

License plate designs are changed in Nebraska every six years. The current design will expire in 2017.

Concluding his testimony, Gale acknowledged the efforts of Senator Smith, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Friends of the Nebraska 150 Sesquicentennial in drafting the legislation.

In addition to Gale, Mike Smith, director of the Nebraska State Historical Society also testified in support of LB 220. Rhonda Lahm, director of the Department of Motor Vehicles submitted a letter of recommendation. There were no opponents and no one testified in a neutral capacity at today's hearing.

###