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168.021 LICENSE PLATES FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.
 Subdivision 1. **SPECIAL PLATES; APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE.** ~~Where~~ When a motor vehicle registered pursuant to section 168.017, or a self-propelled motor vehicle with a gross weight of 9,000 pounds or less is owned or primarily operated by a physically handicapped person, the owner may apply for and secure from the registrar of motor vehicles two license number plates with attached emblems, one plate to be attached to the front, and one to the rear of the vehicle. Application for issuance of these plates shall be made ~~upon~~ at the time of renewal for registration year 1977 and subsequent years, or where the person acquires the vehicle on or after March 1, 1976, when he or first applies application for its registration.

Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This act is effective the day following its final enactment.

Approved May 25, 1979.

CHAPTER 226—H.F.No.1324

An act relating to arson; fire loss information; authorizing certain agencies to request and receive from insurance companies information relating to fire losses; providing for immunity to insurance companies providing fire loss information; providing for confidentiality of released information; providing for testimony in matters under litigation; providing for penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[299F.052] ARSON REPORTING IMMUNITY LAW, CITATION.**
 Sections 1 to 6 shall be known as the Arson Reporting Immunity Law.

Sec. 2. **[299F.053] DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 1 to 6 the terms defined in this section have the meanings given to them.

Subd. 2. "Authorized person" means:

(a) The state fire marshal when authorized or charged with the investigation of fires at the place where the fire actually took place;

(b) Superintendent of the bureau of criminal apprehension;

(c) The prosecuting attorney responsible for prosecutions in the county where the fire occurred;

(d) The sheriff or chief of police responsible for investigation in the county where the fire occurred;

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(e) The county attorney responsible for the prosecution in the county where the fire occurred;

(f) The federal bureau of investigation or any other federal agency;

(g) The United States attorney's office when authorized or charged with investigation or prosecution of a case involving a fire loss; or

(h) The chief administrative officer of the municipal arson squad.

Subd. 3. "Relevant" information or evidence means information having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the investigation or determination of the issue more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.

Sec. 3. [299F.054] **DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.** Subdivision 1. An authorized person may, in writing, require an insurance company to release to the requesting person any or all relevant information or evidence the authorized person, in his discretion, deems important, which the company may have in its possession, relating to a fire loss. Relevant information may include, and is limited to:

(a) Pertinent insurance policy information relevant to a fire loss under investigation including the application for a policy;

(b) Policy premium payment records which are available;

(c) A history of previous claims made by the insured, including, where the insured is a corporation or partnership, a history of previous claims by a subsidiary or any affiliates, and a history of claims of any other business association in which individual officers or partners or their spouses were known to be involved; and

(d) Material relating to the investigation of the loss, including statements of any person, proof of loss, and any other evidence relevant to the investigation.

Subd. 2. (a) When an insurance company has reason to believe that a fire loss in which it has an interest may be of other than accidental cause, the company shall, in writing, notify an authorized person and provide him with all relevant material as specified in this section developed from the company's inquiry into the fire loss.

(b) When an insurance company provides any one of the authorized persons with notice of a fire loss, it shall be sufficient notice for the purpose of this subdivision.

Subd. 3. The authorized person provided with information pursuant to subdivision 1, or subdivision 2, may in furtherance of official purposes release or provide the information to any of the other authorized persons.

Subd. 4. An insurance company or its agent acting in its behalf, or an authorized person who releases information, whether oral or written, acting in good faith, pursuant to

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subdivision 1 or 2 shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

Sec. 4. ~~[299F.055]~~ **EVIDENCE.** Any data received pursuant to sections 1 to 6 by an authorized person or insurance company shall be confidential data pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 15.162, Subdivision 2a until its release is required pursuant to a criminal or civil proceeding.

Sec. 5. ~~[299F.056]~~ **ENFORCEMENT.** Subdivision 1. No insurance company or employee or officer thereof shall intentionally refuse to release any information requested pursuant to section 3, subdivision 1.

Subd. 2. No insurance company or employee or officer thereof shall intentionally refuse to provide authorized persons notice or relevant information pursuant to section 3, subdivision 2.

Subd. 3. No person shall fail to maintain the confidentiality of the data required to be held as confidential.

Subd. 4. Whoever violates the provisions of subdivision 1, 2 or 3 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 6. ~~[299F.057]~~ **HOME RULE AND COMMON LAW.** The provisions of sections 1 to 6 shall not be construed to affect or repeal any ordinance of any municipality relating to fire prevention or the control of arson, but the jurisdiction of the state fire marshal and the superintendent of the bureau of criminal apprehension in the municipality is to be concurrent with that of the municipal and county authorities.

Approved May 25, 1979.

CHAPTER 227—H.F.No.1353

An act relating to motor vehicles; establishing fees for motorized bicycle operator permits; exempting motorized bicycles from seat belt requirements; amending Minnesota Statutes 1978, Sections 169.223, Subdivision 1; 169.685, Subdivision 1; and 171.02, Subdivision 3.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1978, Section 169.223, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

169.223 **MOTORIZED BICYCLES.** Subdivision 1. Except as provided in this section the provisions of section ~~169.224~~ 169.222 relating to the operation of bicycles on roadways are applicable to the operation and the parking of motorized bicycles.

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