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Senate Bill 749 (as introduced 8-19-09)
Sponsor: Senator John Pappageorge
Committee: Transportation

Date Completed: 6-28-10

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to permit the spouse, parent, sibling, or child of a member of the armed services who died during combat to apply to the Secretary of State (SOS) for a Gold Star Family special registration plate.

The plate would have to be inscribed with special identification numbers preceded by a gold star and would have to have the words "Gold Star Family" inscribed beneath the registration number.

The Code permits a person who was a prisoner of war, World War I veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, or purple heart medal recipient to apply to the SOS for a special registration plate. (Please see **BACKGROUND** for a full list of additional special registration plates for veterans of other wars and conflicts.)

The application must be on a form prescribed by the SOS and must be accompanied by a \$5 service fee and proof that the applicant was a prisoner of war, World War I veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, or recipient of the purple heart. A person issued a special registration plate must be assessed the applicable registration fee.

The bill would extend those provisions to the spouse, parent, sibling, or child of a member of the armed services who died during combat. The application would have to be accompanied by any proof that the SOS required.

MCL 257.803e

BACKGROUND

The Secretary of State currently offers vehicle registration plates for the military service members and veterans, shown in Table 1.

Table 1

| <u>Special Registration Plate</u> | <u>Authorizing Section</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Afghanistan Conflict Veteran | 803o |
| Air Force Veteran | 803i |
| Army Veteran | 803i |
| Coast Guard Veteran | 803i |
| Combat Wounded Veteran (Purple Heart) | 803e |
| Cuban Missile Crisis Veteran | 803o |

| <u>Special Registration Plate</u> | <u>Authorizing Section</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Disabled Veteran | 803f |
| Dominican Republic Veteran | 803o |
| Ex-Prisoner of War | 803e |
| Grenada Conflict Veteran | 803n |
| Iraq Conflict Veteran | 803o |
| Korean War Veteran | 803j |
| Laos Conflict Veteran | 803o |
| Lebanon Conflict Veteran | 803n |
| Marine Corps Veteran | 803i |
| Medal of Honor Recipient | 217d |
| Military Reserve Member or Veteran | 803i |
| National Guard Member or Veteran | 803i |
| Navy Veteran | 803i |
| Panama Conflict Veteran | 803n |
| Pearl Harbor Survivor | 803e |
| Persian Gulf (Desert Storm) Veteran | 803n |
| Somalia Conflict Veteran | 803o |
| Vietnam War Veteran | 803k |
| World War I Veteran | 803e |
| World War II Veteran | 803l |

The Code allows a spouse to apply for a special registration plate in the case of ex-prisoners of war and veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam War, World War II, Persian Gulf War, and the conflicts in Granada, Lebanon, and Panama. (In the case of a spouse of a Persian Gulf War veteran, the veteran must have been called to active duty.) Special plates also are available to the spouse of a veteran of the Michigan National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, or any branch of the U.S. armed services who was called to active duty during a declared war or an armed conflict in which the United States was a participant.

Legislative Analyst: Curtis Walker

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.