



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 821 (Substitute S-2 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Phil Pavlov
Committee: Transportation

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to permit a member of a Blue Star Family to apply to the Secretary of State for a "Blue Star Family" special registration plate. The plate would have to be inscribed with special identification numbers preceded by the Blue Star Families insignia and would have to have the words "Blue Star Family" inscribed beneath the registration number.

The Code provides for a number of special license plates honoring military service members, veterans, Purple Heart recipients, and former prisoners of war, among others. The Code also allows a member of a "Gold Star Family" to apply for a special Gold Star Family registration plate (which is available to a person who has had an immediate family member die while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces if the immediate family member meets the eligibility criteria specified in Federal regulations for a gold star lapel button).

Application for a Gold Star Family special registration plate must be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State and be accompanied by any proof of the applicant having been a Gold Star Family member that the Secretary of State may require. The applicant must pay the \$5 service fee and the applicable registration tax. The bill would extend these provisions to a Blue Star Family special registration plate.

"Blue Star Family member" would mean a person who is currently serving, or a person who has an immediate family member serving, in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces.

MCL 257.803e

Legislative Analyst: Drew Krogulecki

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have a negligible fiscal impact on the Department of State due to programming costs associated with the provisions of the bill; however, these costs should be minimal and absorbable within current annual appropriations.

Blue Star Family members who would qualify under the bill for the Blue Star Family designation would still be required to pay the required annual registration fee along with the required \$5 service fee to cover the cost of the Blue Star Family designation. However, as mentioned above, the Department would have some computer programming costs to allow a designation to be granted to a larger pool of veteran families.

Date Completed: 5-14-18

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco