

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: License plate for families of deceased veterans

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Overview

This bill creates a new *Gold Star Family* license plate for the immediate family members of a servicemember who has died in active military service. It exempts the servicemember's spouse and parents from any plate fee and from the annual registration tax on one motor vehicle each.

Section

1 ***Gold Star Family license plate.*** Creates a new license plate for surviving family members of a servicemember who has died while serving honorably in active military service.

Subd. 1. Requires that the applicant must be certified as a surviving family member by either the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs or the US/VA.

Subd. 2. Definitions.

- Defines ***eligible person*** in two categories: (1) surviving spouse and parents (biological or adoptive); and (2) surviving grandparent, sibling or child of the deceased servicemember.
- Defines ***active military service*** as including both federal and/or state active military service.
- Defines ***motor vehicle*** as any personal passenger motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, recreational vehicle and one-ton pickup.

Subd. 3 and 4. Exempts *a surviving spouse and parent* from both the \$10 plate fee

Section

upon issuance and the annual motor vehicle registration tax. This benefit is for the survivor's lifetime, but is limited to one vehicle per person at any given time. No exemption is provided for any other eligible surviving family member requesting the plate - i.e., a grandparent, sibling or child

Subd. 5. Requires the commissioner of Public Safety to consult with the commissioner of Veterans Affairs in designing the plate. Authorizes the use of a generic plate with decals to identify the new plate, similar to current practice on most other veterans plates. (The commissioner is not limited to this design, and may also opt to use a specially stamped-plate design.)

Subd. 6. Authorizes application by an eligible person at any time.

Subd. 7. Authorizes transfer of the plates to another vehicle owned or co-owned by the eligible person, similar to other special veterans plates.

Effective date. Both sections are effective July 1, 2007.