

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Veterans; Gold Star License Plate eligibility expanded

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Overview

Under current law, eligibility for the *Gold Star license plate* is limited to the surviving spouse and parents of a veteran who has died while serving honorably in active military service.

This bill expands that eligibility to include the siblings of the deceased service-member.

Financial Background - Current Law:

The *Gold Star license plate* is issued to eligible survivors of a fallen service-member, exempting the \$10 charge typical of most other veterans plates. Nevertheless, any eligible survivor continues to be subject to the annual motor vehicle registration fee for the person's vehicle.

To pay the cost of production for the *Gold Star license plates*, the commissioner of OMB is authorized to transfer money in the *Support Our Troops License Plate account* under section 190.19, subdivision 2a, to the driver and vehicle services account under section 299A.705, subdivision 1.

Money in the *Support our Troops License Plate account* is from the \$30 annual minimum contribution associated with the sale of *Support our Troops License Plates*, as well as from other donations. By law, the money in that account is required to be split equally between the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, funding for the production of the *Gold Star license plate* comes fully from the share of funds directed toward the latter department.

"*Active service*" is broadly defined to include federal active service (Title 10 U.S. Code), federally funded state active service (Title 32 U.S. Code), and state active service (at the call of the Governor).

"*Motor vehicle*" means a vehicle for personal use, not used for commercial purposes, and may include a passenger automobile, motorcycle, recreational vehicle, pickup truck, or van.