

1 H.694

2 Introduced by Representatives Lefebvre of Newark, Hill of Wolcott, Morgan
3 of Milton, Page of Newport City, Palasik of Milton, Rosenquist
4 of Georgia, Sheldon of Middlebury, Smith of Derby, Squirrell
5 of Underhill, and Strong of Albany

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Motor vehicles; license plates; registration plates; vanity plates;
9 veterans

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit
11 customization on specialty motor vehicle registration plates issued to Vermont
12 veterans and members of U.S. Armed Forces

13 An act relating to vanity veteran vehicle registration plates

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304 is amended to read

16 § 304. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES; NUMBER PLATES; VANITY

17 AND OTHER SPECIAL PLATES

18 * * *

19 (b) The authority to issue vanity motor vehicle number plates or special
20 number plates for safety organizations and service organizations shall reside

1 with the Commissioner. Determination of compliance with the criteria
2 contained in this section shall be within the discretion of the Commissioner.
3 Series of number plates for safety and service organizations ~~which~~ that are
4 authorized by the Commissioner shall be issued in order of approval, subject to
5 the operating considerations in the Department as determined by the
6 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall issue vanity and special organization
7 number plates in the following manner:

8 (1) Vanity plates. Subject to the restrictions of this section, vanity plates
9 shall be issued at the request of the registrant of a motor vehicle unless the
10 vehicle is registered under the International Registration Plan, upon application
11 and upon payment of an annual fee of \$48.00 in addition to the annual fee for
12 registration and any other registration plate fees. Vanity plates shall be
13 available on all special number plates issued pursuant to subsections (j) and (k)
14 of this section. The Commissioner shall not issue two sets of plates bearing
15 the same initials or letters unless the plates also contain a distinguishing
16 number. Vanity plates are subject to reassignment if not renewed within 60
17 days of expiration of the registration.

18 * * *

19 (j) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application,
20 issue special plates to Vermont veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2), and
21 to members of the U.S. Armed Forces, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(10), for

1 use on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate, on vehicles registered at the
2 motorcycle rate, and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and
3 excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. The
4 type and style of the plate shall be determined by the Commissioner, except
5 that an American flag, or a veteran- or military-related emblem selected by the
6 Commissioner and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs shall appear on
7 one side of the plate. At a minimum, emblems shall be available to recognize
8 recipients of the Purple Heart, Pearl Harbor survivors, former prisoners of war,
9 and disabled veterans. An applicant shall apply on a form prescribed by the
10 Commissioner, and the applicant's eligibility as a member of one of the groups
11 recognized will be certified by the Office of Veterans' Affairs. The plates
12 shall be reissued only to the original holder of the plates or the surviving
13 spouse. The Commissioner may adopt rules to implement the provisions of
14 this subsection. Except for new or renewed registrations, applications for the
15 issuance of plates under this subsection shall be processed in the order received
16 by the Department subject to normal workflow considerations. The costs
17 associated with developing new emblems shall be borne by the Department of
18 Motor Vehicles.

19 (k)(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application,
20 issue special gold star and next-of-kin plates for use only on vehicles registered
21 at the pleasure car rate and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and

1 excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan, as
2 follows:

3 (A) Gold star plates shall be issued to the widow or widower, parents,
4 and next of kin as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126(d) of members of the U.S.
5 Armed Forces who lost their lives under the circumstances described in
6 10 U.S.C. § 1126(a).

7 (B) Next-of-kin plates shall be issued to the widow or widower,
8 parents, and next of kin as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126(d) of members of the
9 Armed Forces not eligible for gold star plates under subdivision (A) of this
10 subdivision (1) who lost their lives while serving on active duty or on active
11 duty for training, or while assigned in a Reserve or National Guard unit in drill
12 status, or as a result of injury or illness incurred during such service or
13 assignment.

14 (2) The type and style of the gold star and next-of-kin plates shall be
15 determined by the Commissioner and the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs,
16 except that a gold star shall appear on one side of gold star plates and a distinct
17 emblem shall be approved for next-of-kin plates. An applicant shall apply on a
18 form prescribed by the Commissioner, and the applicant's eligibility will be
19 certified by the Office of Veterans' Affairs. A plate shall be reissued only to
20 the original holder of the plate. The Commissioner may adopt rules to
21 implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for new or renewed

1 registrations, applications for the issuance of gold star or next-of-kin plates
2 shall be processed in the order received by the Department subject to normal
3 workflow considerations.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.