

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 537

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION; AMENDING SECTION 49-403B, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE GOLD STAR SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM AND TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS RELATING TO A GOLD STAR - PURPLE HEART MEDAL SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 49-403B, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

49-403B. GOLD STAR -- LICENSE PLATES. (1) In this section:

(a) "Combat zone" means those locations involving a "period of war" as defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101 (11) and such other locations and times as the division of veterans services may define by rule.

(b) "Killed while serving on active duty" means any member of the armed forces who was killed while serving on active duty outside of a "combat zone."

(c) "Qualifying cause of death" means a death of a person due to hostile action while serving in the armed forces of the United States on active duty in a combat zone as the division of veterans services may define by rule.

(ed) "Qualifying family member" means the surviving spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, half-sibling, stepsibling, grandparent or legal guardian of a person who died due to a qualifying cause of death.

(2) Qualifying family members are eligible to apply for gold star license plates. As proof of eligibility, the applicant shall furnish to the department a statement from the division of veterans services certifying eligibility as provided for in subsection (1) (b) of this section.

(3) Qualifying family members may opt to receive a gold star - purple heart medal plate for the death of a person as provided for in subsection (1) (c) of this section. As proof of eligibility, the applicant shall furnish to the department a statement from the division of veterans services certifying eligibility.

(4) The division of veterans services shall establish by rule the requirements for receipt of a certificate of eligibility including proof of qualifying familial relationship to the deceased service member and the death of the service member due to a qualifying cause of death as specified in subsection (1) (b) or (1) (c) of this section.

(45) No special plate program fee shall be charged in addition to regular registration or renewal of registration of a motor vehicle owned by the spouse, parent or stepparent of a service member who was killed during active military service or in a combat zone and receiving gold star or gold star - purple heart medal license plates.

1 (56) A qualifying family member who is not the spouse, parent or step-
 2 parent shall be charged the regular registration fee and plate fee required
 3 in section 49-450, Idaho Code, and an additional fee of thirty-five dollars
 4 (\$35.00) for the initial issuance of plates and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
 5 upon each succeeding annual registration. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the ini-
 6 tial fee and ten dollars (\$10.00) of the renewal fee shall be deposited in
 7 the state highway account and shall be used to fund the cost of administra-
 8 tion of this gold star license plate program. Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
 9 of each initial fee and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of each renewal fee shall
 10 be deposited in the veterans support fund, section 65-209, Idaho Code, and
 11 shall be used to defray the costs of administration of the eligibility certi-
 12 fication program and to provide programs to support veterans.

13 (67) Gold star or gold star - purple heart medal license plates shall be
 14 used only on a motor vehicle owned by the qualifying family member.

15 (78) Whenever title or interest in a motor vehicle registered under
 16 this section is transferred or assigned, the registration shall expire, but
 17 the qualifying family member may transfer the gold star or gold star - pur-
 18 ple heart medal license plates to another motor vehicle upon payment of the
 19 required transfer fees. The qualifying family member may only display the
 20 gold star or gold star - purple heart medal license plates after receipt of
 21 new registration from the department.

22 (89) A qualifying family member shall not register more than two (2)
 23 motor vehicles under this section. This section shall not apply to any mo-
 24 tor vehicle with a registered maximum gross weight over twenty-six thousand
 25 (26,000) pounds, nor to any vehicle registered under section 49-434(5),
 26 Idaho Code.

27 (910) Gold star or gold star - purple heart medal license plates may be
 28 retained and displayed on motor vehicles owned by the surviving spouse of a
 29 qualifying family member. In addition, the surviving spouse is eligible to
 30 reapply for and shall be issued gold star or gold star - purple heart medal
 31 license plates if the deceased qualifying family member died on or after Jan-
 32 uary 1 of the five (5) years preceding the date of reapplication for the gold
 33 star license plates. Such plates shall be used only on a motor vehicle owned
 34 by the surviving spouse of the qualifying family member.

35 (101) The gold star or gold star - purple heart medal license plates
 36 shall be of a color and design acceptable to the veterans affairs commission
 37 and approved by the department, utilizing a numbering system as determined
 38 by the department. Gold star or gold star - purple heart medal license plates
 39 shall not be subject to discontinuance pursuant to section 49-402C(6), Idaho
 40 Code.