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SENATE BILL 424

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Clemente Sanchez

AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES; CREATING A SPECIAL AIR MEDAL
LICENSE PLATE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE UNITED
STATES ARMED FORCES AIR MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WHILE
PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 66-3-419 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,
Chapter 46, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-419. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR ARMED FORCES
VETERANS.--

A. The department shall issue distinctive
registration plates indicating that the recipient is a veteran
of the armed forces of the United States [~~as defined in Section~~
~~28-13-7 NMSA 1978~~] or is retired from the national guard or
military reserves if that person submits proof satisfactory to

.207006.1

1 the department of honorable discharge from the armed forces or
2 of retirement from the national guard or military reserves.

3 B. For a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), which
4 ~~[shall be]~~ is in addition to the regular motor vehicle
5 registration fees, any motor vehicle owner who is a veteran of
6 the armed forces of the United States or is retired from the
7 national guard or military reserves may apply for the issuance
8 of a special registration plate, as defined in Subsection A of
9 this section. No two owners shall be issued identically
10 lettered or numbered plates.

11 C. The fifteen-dollar (\$15.00) fee provided in
12 Subsection B of this section shall be waived for each
13 registration period in which a validating sticker is issued
14 under the provisions of Section 66-3-17 NMSA 1978, in lieu of
15 the issuance of a special armed forces veteran plate.

16 D. Each armed forces veteran may elect to receive a
17 veteran-designation decal to be placed across the top of the
18 plate, centered above the registration number. Replacement or
19 different veteran-designation decals shall be available for
20 purchase from the department at a reasonable charge to be set
21 by the secretary. The department shall furnish the following
22 veteran-designation decals with the armed forces veteran plate
23 to a:

- 24 (1) medal of honor recipient;
25 (2) silver star recipient;

- (3) bronze star recipient;
- (4) navy cross recipient;
- (5) distinguished service cross recipient;
- (6) air force cross recipient;
- (7) armed forces air medal recipient;
- ~~[(7)]~~ (8) ex-prisoner of war;
- ~~[(8)]~~ (9) disabled veteran;
- ~~[(9)]~~ (10) purple heart veteran;
- ~~[(10)]~~ (11) atomic veteran;
- ~~[(11)]~~ (12) Pearl Harbor survivor;
- ~~[(12)]~~ (13) Navajo code talker;
- ~~[(13)]~~ (14) Vietnam veteran;
- ~~[(14)]~~ (15) Korean veteran;
- ~~[(15)]~~ (16) disabled Korean veteran;
- ~~[(16)]~~ (17) World War II veteran;
- ~~[(17)]~~ (18) World War I veteran;
- ~~[(18)]~~ (19) Grenada veteran;
- ~~[(19)]~~ (20) Panama veteran;
- ~~[(20)]~~ (21) Desert Storm veteran; or
- ~~[(21)]~~ (22) Iraqi Freedom veteran.

E. The revenue from the special registration plates for the armed forces veterans fee imposed by Subsection B of this section shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) seven dollars (\$7.00) of the fee collected for each registration plate shall be retained by the department

1 and is appropriated to the department for the manufacture and
2 issuance of the registration plates; and

3 (2) eight dollars (\$8.00) of the fee collected
4 for each registration plate shall be transferred pursuant to
5 the provisions of Subsection F of this section.

6 F. There is created in the state treasury the
7 "armed forces veterans license fund". A portion of the fee
8 collected for each special registration plate for armed forces
9 veterans, as provided in Subsection E of this section, shall be
10 transferred to the state treasurer for the credit of the fund.
11 Expenditures from the fund shall be made on vouchers issued and
12 signed by the secretary of veterans' services or ~~[his]~~ the
13 secretary's authorized representative upon warrants drawn by
14 the department of finance and administration for the purpose of
15 expanding services to rural areas of the state, including
16 Native American communities and senior citizen centers. Any
17 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of any
18 fiscal year in the armed forces veterans license fund shall not
19 revert to the general fund."

20 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
21 provisions of this act is July 1, 2017.