

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 0 - 2

Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Metsger

Nays: 0

Exc.: Deckert, Starr

Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Department of Transportation to establish a new composite veterans' recognition license plate program. Requires the Director of Veterans Affairs to design veterans' recognition plates in consultation with department. Specifies that Gold Star Families are eligible for a gold star decal on a veterans' plate background.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Registration plate design
- Minimal cost due to programming in place for existing veterans groups
- Eligibility requirements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds Gold Star Families as eligible for veterans' recognition registration plate program.

BACKGROUND: Under current law, each veterans group must sell or renew at least 500 license plates per year to retain an active group plate. House Bill 3161-B allows both active and inactive veterans group plates to count toward the 500-plate requirement as one group. The measure allows existing veterans groups and gold star families, as well as any new veterans groups, to use their unique decal or words on the plate to identify the group. Under the measure, inactive veterans groups may become active again and would need to pay for plate manufacturing costs upfront, but no programming would be required. The measure authorizes a \$2.50 surcharge per plate for each year of registration deposited into a fund designated by each veterans group. If no fund is designated, surcharge fee revenues are deposited with the Oregon Veterans' Home.

The use of a gold star for the families of veterans killed in action dates back to the 1940s when a blue star was established as a symbol for families with active armed service members. A gold star designated families with service members who had been killed in active duty. Eight states have established gold star license plates for eligible family members to honor their lost service members, and other states have legislation pending.

5/29/2007 2:38:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.