

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued  
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed  
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0  
Yeas: Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: 0  
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator  
Meeting Dates: 4/12, 4/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Department of Transportation to provide for a special group license plate, the Gold Star Family plate, to surviving family members of a person killed while on active duty in the Armed Forces. Allows the department to redesign an existing group plate and to add a gold star logo to the plate.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- License plate as a tribute and as a remembrance of family and service member sacrifice
- Gold star plates in other states
- Options for plates under current law
- Surcharge to go toward Support Our Troops organization

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Allows the Department of Transportation to use an existing group plate design and to design a gold star for the plate.

**BACKGROUND:** A blue star was established in the 1940s as a symbol for of families with active armed service members and the star was often displayed on a banner in the family home. A gold star designated families with service members who had died while on 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.

Senate Bill 557-A would allow eligible family members to obtain a decal featuring a gold star and the wording “Gold Star Family” on a license plate with the standard (tree plate) background for a surcharge of \$10 every two years. The surcharge would go toward the existing Support Our Troops program.