

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**REVENUE: Minimal revenue impact, no statement issued****FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/5, 5/12**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Permits siblings of servicemembers killed in action to obtain Gold Star Family license plates. Declares emergency, effective October 1, 2015.**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Meaning and symbolism of Gold Star Family license plate
- Family pride and loss

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation issues vehicle license plates. The “tree plate” is Oregon’s standard or default plate, issued to all vehicle owners unless they choose something else. There are a number of other plates that require an additional fee. Plates are available in several categories, including “special registration plates” (such as Pacific Wonderland, Crater Lake, and Wine Country plates), “nonprofit group plates” (such as Keep Kids Safe, Share the Road, and Lions Clubs of Oregon), “higher education plates” (Oregon State University, University of Oregon, University of Portland, and Willamette University), and “veteran and service-related plates,” which includes Gold Star Family license plates.

The Gold Star Family plate recognizes families of servicemembers killed in the line of duty. They are for passenger vehicles only, and there is an additional annual fee of \$5, which benefits the Oregon chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Currently, Gold Star Family license plates are only available to vehicle owners who are the parent, spouse, or dependent of a servicemember who was killed in action. House Bill 2658-A adds siblings to the list of individuals who may obtain a Gold Star Family license plate.

*House Committee: 7 – 0 – 0**House Floor: 58 – 0 – 2*

5/8/2015 11:13:00 AM \*

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