

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development

MEASURE: HB 2658 A
CARRIER: Rep. Olson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Action Date: 03/11/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/18, 03/11

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Bentz, Davis, Gorsek, Hack, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits the Department of Transportation to issue veterans' recognition vehicle registration plates to Gold Star Family members who are siblings of persons killed in action in an armed conflict while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Declares emergency, effective October 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recognition of service for family members of fallen soldiers
- Importance of allowing siblings to participate
- Brings attention to important issue

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Adds emergency clause.

BACKGROUND:

The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) issues vehicle registration plates required for legal operation of a motor vehicle on Oregon roads. Oregon DMV provides several options for vehicle registration plates; the standard "tree plate" is issued to all vehicle owners unless they opt for one of several alternatives, each of which requires payment of an additional fee. Registration plates are available in several categories, including "special registration plates" (such as Pacific Wonderland, Crater Lake and Wine Country plates), "non-profit group plates" (such as Keep Kids Safe, Share the Road and Lions Clubs of Oregon plates), "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 registration plates.

The Gold Star Family registration plate honors families of veterans killed in the line of duty. There is an additional \$5 annual fee for this registration plate, which benefits the Vietnam Veterans of America, Oregon State Council. To be eligible, the vehicle owner must be a parent, spouse or dependent of a person who was killed in action during an armed conflict while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. The Gold Star Family plate is available only for passenger vehicles in Oregon.

House Bill 2658-A expands the eligibility to qualify to purchase Gold Star Family vehicle registration plates to include siblings of persons killed in action while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.