

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Action Date: 05/12/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 05/05, 05/12

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

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.