



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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DATE: May 1, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: HB 2149, permanent registration for former prisoners of war

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 2149 would allow new applicants for the license plate honoring former prisoners of war to pay a one-time low-cost registration fee. Current holders of this plate would never again pay a renewal fee.

DISCUSSION

Oregonians who are former prisoners of war may choose a license plate that distinguishes their particular service and sacrifice. The plate is available to those who served in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, or one of its allies. Under the terms of the statute, a prisoner of war is a person who was forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty, by an enemy government or hostile force during a period of war, or by a foreign government or hostile force under circumstances comparable to those who have been forcibly detained or interned by enemy governments during times of war. The existing law also allows a surviving spouse of a person who has this plate to keep it as valid registration or as a memento.

The law creating this plate was passed in 1985. Since that time, 127 Oregonians have selected that plate; 33 vehicles currently have this registration.

DMV would implement this bill by making small programming changes to discontinue sending registration renewal notices to these plate holders. DMV would issue one-time tags to existing and new plate holders that indicate registration is permanent. No such tags are currently used at DMV, so the agency will work with law enforcement on an appropriate design.

SUMMARY

A small number of Oregonians have the license plate honoring former prisoners of war. The bill would allow those who already have this plate to never pay another registration renewal fee, and those who obtain it in the future to pay a one-time low-cost registration fee.