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Senate Bill 102 (as introduced 2-8-11)
Sponsor: Senator John Pappageorge
Committee: Transportation

Date Completed: 4-11-11

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to permit the spouse, parent, sibling, or child of a member of the armed services who died during combat to apply to the Secretary of State (SOS) for a Gold Star Family special registration plate.

The plate would have to be inscribed with special identification numbers preceded by a gold star and would have to have the words "Gold Star Family" inscribed beneath the registration number.

The Code permits a person who was a prisoner of war, World War I veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, or Purple Heart medal recipient to apply to the SOS for a special registration plate. (Please see **BACKGROUND** for a full list of additional special registration plates for veterans of other wars and conflicts.)

The application must be on a form prescribed by the SOS and must be accompanied by a \$5 service fee and proof that the applicant was a prisoner of war, World War I veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, or recipient of the Purple Heart. A person issued a special registration plate must be assessed the applicable registration fee.

The bill would extend those provisions to the spouse, parent, sibling, or child of a member of the armed services who died during combat. The application would have to be accompanied by proof of the applicant's relationship to the deceased.

MCL 257.803e

BACKGROUND

The Secretary of State currently offers vehicle registration plates for the military service members and veterans shown in Table 1.

Table 1

<u>Special Registration Plate</u>	<u>Authorizing Section</u>
Afghanistan Conflict Veteran	803o
Air Force Veteran	803i
Army Veteran	803i
Coast Guard Veteran	803i
Combat Wounded Veteran (Purple Heart)	803e
Cuban Missile Crisis Veteran	803o
Disabled Veteran	803f
Dominican Republic Veteran	803o
Ex-Prisoner of War	803e
Grenada Conflict Veteran	803n
Iraq Conflict Veteran	803o
Korean War Veteran	803j
Laos Conflict Veteran	803o
Lebanon Conflict Veteran	803n
Marine Corps Veteran	803i
Medal of Honor Recipient	217d
Military Reserve Member or Veteran	803i
National Guard Member or Veteran	803i
Navy Veteran	803i
Panama Conflict Veteran	803n
Pearl Harbor Survivor	803e
Persian Gulf (Desert Storm) Veteran	803n
Somalia Conflict Veteran	803o
Vietnam War Veteran	803k
World War I Veteran	803e
World War II Veteran	803l

The Code allows a spouse to apply for a special registration plate in the case of ex-prisoners of war and veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam War, World War II, Persian Gulf War, and the conflicts in Granada, Lebanon, and Panama. (In the case of a spouse of a Persian Gulf War veteran, the veteran must have been called to active duty.) Special plates also are available to the spouse of a veteran of the Michigan National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, or any branch of the U.S. armed services who was called to active duty during a declared war or an armed conflict in which the United States was a participant.

Legislative Analyst: Julie Cassidy

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.