



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL



ANALYSIS

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House Bill 4450 (Substitute H-1 as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative Jacob Hoogendyk

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

Date Completed: 11-15-04

RATIONALE

The Michigan Vehicle Code allows the Secretary of State (SOS) to issue a personalized registration plate for use on a motor vehicle. The Code also allows the SOS to issue specialty license plates to military veterans. The Code, however, does not allow for the personalization of a specialty veteran plate. It has been suggested that veterans should be allowed to apply for personalized veteran plates.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow the SOS to issue personalized military veteran specialty license plates. The bill would take effect January 1, 2006.

Under Section 803b of the Code, the SOS may issue a personalized registration plate for use on a motor vehicle instead of a standard registration plate. The plate must bear letters and numbers as the SOS prescribes. The SOS may not issue a letter combination that might carry a connotation offensive to good taste and decency. An application for an original personalized registration plate must be accompanied by a service fee of \$8 for the first month and \$2 for each additional month of the registration period, in addition to the regular vehicle registration fee.

Other sections of the Code also allow the SOS to issue, upon payment of a \$5 service fee, specialty military veteran license plates to the following people:

- An individual awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- An ex-prisoner of war.

- A person who was a member of the armed services during World War I.
- A person who was a member or whose spouse was a member of the armed services during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.
- A person who was a member of the armed services and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- A Purple Heart recipient.
- A disabled veteran.
- A person who was a member or whose spouse was a member of the Michigan National Guard, the United States Armed Forces Reserve, or any branch of the armed services and who was called to active duty during the Persian Gulf War, or during a declared war or an armed conflict in which the United States was a participant.
- A person who was a member or whose spouse was a member of the armed services during the conflict in Grenada, Panama, or Lebanon.

Additionally, the SOS may issue a Michigan Veterans Memorial registration plate. An application must be accompanied by the regular vehicle registration tax, a maximum service fee of \$10, and a \$25 donation, which is credited to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument Fund.

Under the bill, an applicant for any of the veteran plates described above would be eligible to request, and the SOS could issue, the plate with a sequence of letters and numbers authorized under Section 803b for personalized registration plates.

MCL 257.803b

ARGUMENTS

(Please note: The arguments contained in this analysis originate from sources outside the Senate Fiscal Agency. The Senate Fiscal Agency neither supports nor opposes legislation.)

Supporting Argument

Those who have served in the military may obtain specialty veteran plates in recognition of their service to the United States. Because personalized license plates already are available to the general public, it would be fitting to extend the personalization option to veteran plates. The bill would accommodate the wishes of those who selflessly served this country. A personalized veteran plate would both honor the veteran and express his or her individuality.

Legislative Analyst: Julie Koval

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of State reports that one-time programming costs would amount to approximately \$70,000.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Bowerman

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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.