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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2656

03/08/2016 Authored by Norton

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to transportation; motor vehicles; adding service branch designs to
1.3 special veterans' plates; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 168.123,
1.4 subdivisions 1, 2.
1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 168.123, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. **General requirements; fees.** (a) On payment of a fee of \$10 for
1.8 each set of two plates, or for a single plate in the case of a motorcycle plate, payment of
1.9 the registration tax required by law, and compliance with other applicable laws relating to
1.10 vehicle registration and licensing, as applicable, the commissioner shall issue:

1.11 (1) special veteran's plates to an eligible applicant who ~~served in the active military~~
1.12 ~~service in a branch of the armed forces of the United States or of a nation or society allied~~
1.13 ~~with the United States in conducting a foreign war, was discharged under honorable~~
1.14 ~~conditions, and~~ is a registered owner of a passenger automobile, recreational motor
1.15 vehicle, or one-ton pickup truck, but which is not a commercial motor vehicle as defined
1.16 in section 169.011, subdivision 16; or

1.17 (2) a veteran's special motorcycle plate ~~as described in subdivision 2, paragraph (a),~~
1.18 ~~(e), (f), (h), (i), (j), or (m),~~ or another special plate designed by the commissioner to an
1.19 eligible applicant who is a registered owner of a motorcycle ~~and meets the criteria listed in~~
1.20 ~~this paragraph and in subdivision 2, paragraph (a), (e), (f), (h), (i), (j), or (m).~~

1.21 (b) Special motorcycle plates issued under this clause paragraph (a), clause (2), must
1.22 be the same size as regular motorcycle plates. Special motorcycle license plates issued
1.23 under this clause, and are not subject to section 168.1293. A special motorcycle plate is not
1.24 available for a plate design specified in subdivision 2, paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (g), (k), or (l).

~~(b)~~ (c) The additional fee of \$10 is payable for each set of veteran's plates, is payable only when the plates are issued, and is not payable in a year in which validation stickers are issued instead of plates.

~~(e)~~ (d) The veteran must have a certified copy of the veteran's discharge papers, indicating character of discharge, at the time of application. If an applicant served in the active military service in a branch of the armed forces of a nation or society allied with the United States in conducting a foreign war and is unable to obtain a record of that service and discharge status, the commissioner of veterans affairs may certify the applicant as qualified for the veterans' plates provided under this section.

(e) For purposes of this subdivision, "eligible applicant" means an applicant for a special plate under this section who:

(1) served in the active military service in a branch of (i) the armed forces of the United States, or (ii) a nation or society allied with the United States during a foreign war;

(2) unless otherwise specified, was discharged under honorable conditions; and

(3) meets the eligibility requirements for the specific plate design requested, as specified under subdivision 2.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2017.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 168.123, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Design and plate eligibility.** The commissioner of veterans affairs shall design the emblem for the veterans' special plates, subject to the approval of the commissioner, that satisfy the following requirements:

(a) For a Vietnam veteran who served after July 1, 1961, and before July 1, 1978, in the active military service in a branch of the armed forces of the United States or a nation or society allied with the United States the special plates must bear the inscription "VIETNAM VET."

(b) For a veteran stationed on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, or offshore, during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the special plates must bear the inscription "PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR."

(c) For a veteran who served during World War II, the plates must bear the inscription "WORLD WAR VET."

(d) For a veteran who served during the Korean Conflict, the special plates must bear the inscription "KOREAN VET."

(e) For a combat wounded veteran who is a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, the plates must bear the inscription "COMBAT WOUNDED VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of the official Purple Heart medal.

A member of the United States armed forces who is serving actively in the military and who is a recipient of the Purple Heart medal is also eligible for this license plate. The commissioner of public safety shall ensure that information regarding the required proof of eligibility for any applicant under this paragraph who has not yet been issued military discharge papers is distributed to the public officials responsible for administering this section.

(f) For a Persian Gulf War veteran, the plates must bear the inscription "GULF WAR VET." For the purposes of this section, "Persian Gulf War veteran" means a person who served on active duty after August 1, 1990, in a branch of the armed forces of the United States or a nation or society allied with the United States or the United Nations during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, or other military operation in the Persian Gulf area combat zone as designated in United States Presidential Executive Order No. 12744, dated January 21, 1991.

(g) For a veteran who served in the Laos War after July 1, 1961, and before July 1, 1978, the special plates must bear the inscription "LAOS WAR VET."

(h) For a veteran who is the recipient of:

(1) the Iraq Campaign Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "IRAQ WAR VET" directly below the special plate number;

(2) the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "AFGHAN WAR VET" directly below the special plate number;

(3) the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "GWOT VETERAN" directly below the special plate number; or

(4) the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the special plates must bear an appropriate inscription that includes a facsimile of that medal.

(i) For a veteran who is the recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "GWOT VETERAN" directly below the special plate number. In addition, any member of the National Guard or other military reserves who has been ordered to federally funded state active service under United States Code, title 32, as defined in section 190.05, subdivision 5b, and who is the recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, is eligible for the license plate described in this paragraph, irrespective of whether that person qualifies as a veteran under section 197.447.

(j) For a veteran who is the recipient of the Korean Defense Service Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE" directly below the special plate number.

(k) For a veteran who is a recipient of the Bronze Star medal, the plates must bear the inscription "BRONZE STAR VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of the official Bronze Star medal.

(l) For a veteran who is a recipient of the Silver Star medal, the plates must bear the inscription "SILVER STAR VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of the official Silver Star medal.

(m) For a woman veteran, the plates must bear the inscription "WOMAN VETERAN" and have a facsimile or an emblem as designated by the commissioners of veterans affairs and public safety.

(n) For a veteran who served:

(1) in the Air Force service branch, the plates must bear the inscription "U.S. AIR FORCE VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of that branch;

(2) in the Army service branch, the plates must bear the inscription "U.S. ARMY VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of that branch;

(3) in the Coast Guard service branch, the plates must bear the inscription "U.S. COAST GUARD VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of that branch;

(4) in the Marine Corps service branch, the plates must bear the inscription "U.S. MARINE VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of that branch; and

(5) in the Navy service branch, the plates must bear the inscription "U.S. NAVY VET" and have a facsimile or an emblem of that branch.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2017.