



2009 SENATE BILL 543

February 17, 2010 - Introduced by Senators PLALE, WIRCH, TAYLOR, LEHMAN, KEDZIE, DARLING and SCHULTZ, cosponsored by Representatives SINICKI, TURNER, A. WILLIAMS, BERCEAU, ZIGMUNT, ZIEGELBAUER, HRAYCHUCK, BIES, LOTHIAN and PRIDEMORE. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

1 **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 341.14 (8) (c); **to amend** 341.14 (1); and **to**
2 **create** 341.14 (8) (c) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** registration plates for
3 certain disabled veterans.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person who submits to the Department of Transportation (DOT) a certification from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that the person sustained injuries while in active military service that limit or impair the person's ability to walk may obtain from DOT special distinguishing registration plates for certain vehicles, including automobiles, light-duty trucks, and motor homes, that identify the owner or lessee of the vehicle as a disabled veteran.

Under this bill, if, in addition to the certification of injury, a disabled veteran submits to DOT a certification from the Military Order of the Purple Heart that the veteran has been awarded the Purple Heart medal, the veteran may obtain from DOT special distinguishing registration plates that identify the owner or lessee of the vehicle as a disabled veteran and incorporate the emblem of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Also under this bill, a surviving spouse may obtain a special group plate for persons awarded the Purple Heart medal. The special plate that the surviving spouse may obtain does not provide parking privileges reserved for disabled persons.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 341.14 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 341.14 (1) If any resident of this state who is registering or has registered an
3 automobile, or a motor truck, dual purpose motor home or dual purpose farm truck
4 which has a gross weight of not more than 8,000 pounds, a farm truck which has a
5 gross weight of not more than 12,000 pounds or a motor home submits a statement
6 once every 4 years, as determined by the department, from the U.S. department of
7 veterans affairs certifying to the department that the resident is, by reason of
8 injuries sustained while in the active U.S. military service, a person with a disability
9 that limits or impairs the ability to walk, the department shall procure, issue and
10 deliver to the veteran, plates of a special design in lieu of the plates which ordinarily
11 would be issued for the vehicle, and shall renew the plates. The plates shall be
12 colored red, white, and blue and the department shall consult the department of
13 veterans affairs before specifying the design of the plates. The plates shall be so
14 designed as to readily apprise law enforcement officers of the fact that the vehicle is
15 owned by a disabled veteran and is entitled to the parking privileges specified in s.
16 346.50 (2). If, in addition to the statement of disability, the veteran provides a
17 statement from the Military Order of the Purple Heart certifying to the department
18 that the veteran has been awarded the Purple Heart medal, the department shall
19 issue and deliver to the veteran a plate of special design meeting all of the
20 requirements of this subsection and incorporating as much of the emblem of the
21 Military Order of the Purple Heart as practicable. The department may not issue

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1 any plate incorporating the emblem of the Military Order of the Purple Heart unless
2 the department has received information sufficient for the department to determine
3 that any approvals required for the use of the emblem, or portion of the emblem, of
4 the Military Order of the Purple Heart have been obtained. No charge in addition
5 to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance or renewal of such plates under
6 this subsection.

7 **SECTION 2.** 341.14 (8) (c) of the statutes is renumbered 341.14 (8) (c) 1. and
8 amended to read:

9 341.14 (8) (c) 1. This Except as provided in subd. 2., this subsection does not
10 apply to a special plate issued under s. 341.14 (1) or (1r).

11 **SECTION 3.** 341.14 (8) (c) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

12 341.14 (8) (c) 2. If a plate of special design incorporating a symbol associated
13 with the Military Order of the Purple Heart has been issued to a person under sub.
14 (1), upon application by the surviving spouse of the person, the department shall
15 issue a special plate under sub. (6r) (f) 32. to the surviving spouse. No charge in
16 addition to the registration fee shall be made for the issuance or renewal of the
17 special plate under sub. (6r) (f) 32. to the surviving spouse.

18 **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

19 (1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 7th month beginning after
20 publication.

21 (END)