

## 2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 629

December 19, 2007 – Introduced by Representative SCHNEIDER. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1     **AN ACT to amend** 341.14 (6w) and 341.142; and **to create** 341.08 (2) (f) of the  
2             **statutes; relating to:** special distinguishing registration plates for motorcycles  
3             owned by veterans.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, members of authorized special groups may obtain special distinguishing registration plates for automobiles and certain other vehicles (automobiles) that are owned or leased by members of these groups. There are more than 50 variations of automobile special plates related to military service, military honors, and groups associated with a branch of the armed services, including special plates for U.S. army veterans, U.S. air force veterans, World War II veterans, Korean War veterans, Persian Gulf War veterans, ex-prisoners of war, persons awarded a congressional medal of honor, persons awarded the silver star medal, and persons awarded the purple heart medal. The only special plate available for motorcycles is a special plate identifying the owner or lessee of the motorcycle as a veteran of the U.S. armed forces.

Under this bill, if an applicant for a veteran's special plate for a motorcycle identifies himself or herself as a member of an authorized special group, or as eligible for an automobile special plate, that is military in nature, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must affix to the motorcycle special plate a registration decal or tag that includes certain information that appears on the automobile special plates that are military in nature, such as the words "Korean War veteran," "medal of honor," and "ex-prisoner of war."

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Under current law, if a member of an authorized special group for which automobile special plates are available submits certain proof that he or she has been awarded a congressional medal for service in the armed forces, DOT must issue to the person a decal, similar in appearance to the medal awarded, to be displayed on the rear registration plate of the person's vehicle. This bill requires DOT to also issue, under the same conditions, decals for display on veterans' special plates for motorcycles.

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

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 341.08 (2) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

2           341.08 **(2)** (f) If the application is for registration of a motorcycle under s. 341.14  
3 (6w), an opportunity for the applicant to identify himself or herself as a member of  
4 an authorized special group, or as eligible for special plates, as provided in s. 341.14  
5 (6w).

6           **SECTION 2.** 341.14 (6w) of the statutes is amended to read:

7           341.14 **(6w)** Upon application to register a motorcycle by any person who is a  
8 resident of this state and a veteran of the U.S. armed forces, the department shall  
9 issue to the person a special plate whose colors and design shall indicate that the  
10 vehicle is owned by a veteran of the U.S. armed forces. The department shall specify  
11 the design of the special plate. Notwithstanding s. 341.13 (2m), the special plate  
12 shall be colored red, white, and blue and be 4 inches by 7 inches in size. An additional  
13 fee of \$15 shall be charged for the issuance or reissuance of the plate. If the applicant  
14 identifies himself or herself in the application as a member of an authorized special  
15 group described in sub. (6r) (f) 1. to 19., 20. to 32., 49. to 49s., or 51., the department  
16 shall affix to the plate issued under this subsection a registration decal or tag that  
17 includes the name of this authorized special group and the symbol representing this

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1 special group. If the applicant identifies himself or herself in the application as  
2 eligible for the special plates issued under sub. (5) and submits proper proof of  
3 eligibility, the department shall affix to the plate issued under this subsection a  
4 registration decal or tag that incorporates a significant element of the design of the  
5 special plates issued under sub. (5). If the applicant identifies himself or herself in  
6 the application as eligible for the special plates issued under sub. (6) and submits  
7 proper proof of eligibility, the department shall affix to the plate issued under this  
8 subsection a registration decal or tag displaying the words “ex-prisoner of war.” The  
9 department shall not issue to an applicant a decal or tag under both this subsection  
10 and s. 341.142 for the same medal.

11 **SECTION 3.** 341.142 of the statutes is amended to read:

12 **341.142 Veterans honorary medal decals.** If any person who is registering  
13 or has registered a vehicle specified in s. 341.14 (6r) (b) 1. or (6w) submits a statement  
14 from the U.S. department of veterans affairs certifying to the department that the  
15 person has been awarded a medal authorized under an act of congress relating to  
16 that person’s service in the U.S. armed forces, as defined in s. 40.02 (57m), the  
17 department shall, free of charge, procure, issue and deliver to that veteran one decal,  
18 similar in appearance to the medal awarded to that veteran, for each motor vehicle  
19 registered in the name of that veteran. Notwithstanding s. 341.61 (3), a decal issued  
20 under this section shall be displayed in the manner directed by the department on  
21 the rear registration plate of the vehicle registered in the name of the veteran to  
22 whom the decal was issued. The department shall specify one combination of colors  
23 and design for each medal authorized under an act of congress for which a statement  
24 has been received by the department under this section, except that the department  
25 may not specify the colors or design unless the colors and design are approved in

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1 writing by the state department of veterans affairs. Not more than one decal may  
2 be issued under this section for each motor vehicle registered in the name of a  
3 veteran.

4 **SECTION 4. Initial applicability.**

5 (1) This act first applies to applications for original or renewal vehicle  
6 registration received by the department of transportation on the effective date of this  
7 subsection.

8 **SECTION 5. Effective date.**

9 (1) This act takes effect on first day of the 5th month beginning after  
10 publication.

11 (END)