

## 2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 80

February 20, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives GOTTLIEB, MUSSER, ALBERS, BERCEAU, BIES, FRISKE, GRONEMUS, HAHN, HINES, KERKMAN, KLEEFISCH, LOTHIAN, MONTGOMERY, A. OTT, SUDER, TOWNSEND, TRAVIS, MOLEPSKE, VOS, SINICKI and GUNDERSON, cosponsored by Senators BRESKE, COGGS, S. FITZGERALD, GROTHMAN, KEDZIE, LASSA, LEIBHAM, PLALE, ROESSLER and SCHULTZ. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m. of the statutes; **relating to:** special  
2             distinguishing registration plates for persons who have had an immediate  
3             family member die while in military service.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, any group or organization may apply to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for designation as an authorized special group. If the application is approved, members of the authorized special group may obtain special distinguishing registration plates for certain vehicles, including automobiles and motor homes, that are owned or leased by special group members. A fee, in addition to the regular registration fee for the particular kind of vehicle, is assessed for the issuance or reissuance of most special plates.

Before October 2, 1998, authorized special groups whose members may obtain special distinguishing registration plates were specifically enumerated in state law. Current law provides that specific enumeration in state law of authorized special groups is limited to those special groups enumerated before October 2, 1998. In 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 (the biennial budget bill), a special group was enumerated for persons who have had an immediate family member die in combat while serving in the U.S. armed forces. The design of these special plates, which are colored red, white, and blue, must include a gold star flag.

Under current federal law, gold star lapel buttons may be furnished to the widows, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces who lost their lives: 1) during World War I, World War II, or during any subsequent period of armed

