AN ACT to create 341.08 (2) (f) and 341.14 (6m) (d) of the statutes; relating to: special distinguishing registration plates for certain vehicles owned by members of the national guard.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, state residents who are members or retired members of the national guard may obtain, for automobiles and certain other vehicles that they own or lease, special distinguishing registration plates that display the words “Wisconsin guard member” (national guard special plates).

Under this bill, if an applicant for initial issuance of national guard special plates identifies himself or herself as a member or former member of the 32nd Infantry Brigade, the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Forces Headquarters, the 115th Fighter Wing, or the 128th Refueling Wing, the Department of Transportation (DOT) must affix to one of these special plates a decal (sticker) that includes a symbol associated with the unit of which the applicant is or was a member. An applicant for renewal of registration of national guard special plates may also receive this sticker, free of charge, if the sticker was not previously affixed by DOT to either of the applicant’s national guard special plates.

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

341.08 (2) (f) If the application is for registration of a vehicle under s. 341.14 (6m), an opportunity for the applicant to identify himself or herself as a member or former member of the 32nd Infantry Brigade, the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Forces Headquarters, the 115th Fighter Wing, or the 128th Refueling Wing.

SECTION 2. 341.14 (6m) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

341.14 (6m) (d) 1. If an applicant for initial issuance of special plates under this subsection identifies himself or herself in the application as a member or former member of the 32nd Infantry Brigade, the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Forces Headquarters, the 115th Fighter Wing, or the 128th Refueling Wing, the department shall affix to one of the plates issued under this subsection a decal that includes a symbol associated with the unit of which the applicant is or was a member.

2. Upon receiving any application for renewal of registration of a vehicle for which special plates have been issued under this subsection, if the applicant identifies himself or herself in the application as a member or former member of the 32nd Infantry Brigade, the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Forces Headquarters, the 115th Fighter Wing, or the 128th Refueling Wing and if the department has not previously issued a plate with a decal affixed as provided under subd. 1. or 3., the department shall provide a decal described in subd. 1. to the applicant, free of charge, with instructions for placement of the decal on one of the special plates.

3. Notwithstanding subd. 2., upon receiving any application for renewal of registration of a vehicle for which special plates have been issued under this subsection, if the applicant identifies himself or herself in the application as a member or former member of the 32nd Infantry Brigade, the 57th Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Forces Headquarters, the 115th Fighter Wing, or the 128th Refueling
Wing and if the department is required under s. 341.135 (2) to issue new registration plates for the vehicle, the department shall affix to one of the plates a decal described in subd. 1.

4. This paragraph also applies to personalized registration plates issued under s. 341.145 (1g) (a).

SECTION 3. Initial applicability.

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

SECTION 4. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on first day of the 4th month beginning after publication.