

2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 49

February 17, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives SCHNEIDER, VRUWINK, TOWNSEND, BIES, HONADEL, BARCA, LOTHIAN, STRACHOTA and KLEEFISCH, cosponsored by Senators OLSEN, A. LASEE and COGGS. 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.

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 provide to the applicant, to be affixed 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.

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 provide to the applicant, to be affixed to the plate issued under this subsection,
17 a registration decal or tag that includes the name of this authorized special group

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

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

16 **341.142 Veterans honorary medal decals.** If any person who is registering
17 or has registered a vehicle specified in s. 341.14 (6r) (b) 1. or (6w) submits a statement
18 from the U.S. department of veterans affairs certifying to the department that the
19 person has been awarded a medal authorized under an act of congress relating to
20 that person’s service in the U.S. armed forces, as defined in s. 40.02 (57m), the
21 department shall, free of charge, procure, issue and deliver to that veteran one decal,
22 similar in appearance to the medal awarded to that veteran, for each motor vehicle
23 registered in the name of that veteran. Notwithstanding s. 341.61 (3), a decal issued
24 under this section shall be displayed in the manner directed by the department on
25 the rear registration plate of the vehicle registered in the name of the veteran to

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1 whom the decal was issued. The department shall specify one combination of colors
2 and design for each medal authorized under an act of congress for which a statement
3 has been received by the department under this section, except that the department
4 may not specify the colors or design unless the colors and design are approved in
5 writing by the state department of veterans affairs. Not more than one decal may
6 be issued under this section for each motor vehicle registered in the name of a
7 veteran.

SECTION 4. Initial applicability.

8
9 (1) This act first applies to applications for original or renewal vehicle
10 registration received by the department of transportation on the effective date of this
11 subsection.

SECTION 5. Effective date.

12
13 (1) This act takes effect on first day of the 5th month beginning after
14 publication.

15 (END)