



## 2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 680

January 10, 2008 - Introduced by Representatives FRISKE, PETROWSKI, TURNER, BIES, MEYER, MUSSER, MURSAU, BERCEAU, LOTHIAN, KLEEFISCH, ALBERS, KERKMAN, SHERIDAN and A. WILLIAMS, cosponsored by Senators SCHULTZ, GROTHMAN and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1     **AN ACT** *to amend* 25.40 (1) (a) 3., 84.59 (2) (b) and 341.145 (3); and *to create*  
2             341.26 (8) of the statutes; **relating to:** registration fees for certain motor  
3             vehicles issued special registration plates.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, any group or organization may apply to the Department of Transportation 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 charged for the issuance or reissuance of most special plates.

Current law recognizes as an authorized special group persons who have had an immediate family member die in combat while serving in the U.S. armed forces. "Immediate family member" includes a spouse, grandparent, parent, sibling, child, and others. These persons may obtain special plates displaying a gold star flag (gold star plates). Unlike most special plates, these gold star plates are not subject to any additional fee for their issuance or reissuance. However, the vehicle owner is required to pay the regular registration fee and, if the plates are personalized, any additional fee for having the plates personalized.

This bill establishes a special registration fee for vehicles issued gold star plates and registered by spouses or parents of persons who have died in combat while serving in the U.S. armed forces. The bill provides an initial registration fee for these

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vehicles that is generally the regular registration fee that would ordinarily apply for the same vehicle type, but then exempts the vehicle from all registration renewal fees thereafter. The bill does not affect the applicable fee for personalizing gold star plates.

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.** 25.40 (1) (a) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

2           25.40 (1) (a) 3. Revenues collected under ss. 341.09 (2) (d), (2m) (a) 1., (4), and  
3 (7), 341.14 (2), (2m), (6) (d), (6m) (a), (6r) (b) 2., (6w), and (8), 341.145 (3), 341.16 (1)  
4 (a) and (b), (2), and (2m), 341.17 (8), 341.19 (1) (a), 341.25, 341.255 (1), (2) (a), (b), and  
5 (c), (4), and (5), 341.26 (1), (2), (2m) (am) and (b), (3), (3m), (4), (5), and (7), and (8),  
6 341.264 (1), 341.265 (1), 341.266 (2) (b) and (3), 341.268 (2) (b) and (3), 341.30 (3),  
7 341.305 (3), 341.308 (3), 341.36 (1) and (1m), 341.51 (2), and 342.14, except s. 342.14  
8 (1r), that are pledged to any fund created under s. 84.59 (2).

9           **SECTION 2.** 84.59 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

10           84.59 (2) (b) The department may, under s. 18.562, deposit in a separate and  
11 distinct special fund outside the state treasury, in an account maintained by a  
12 trustee, revenues derived under ss. 341.09 (2) (d), (2m) (a) 1., (4), and (7), 341.14 (2),  
13 (2m), (6) (d), (6m) (a), (6r) (b) 2., (6w), and (8), 341.145 (3), 341.16 (1) (a) and (b), (2),  
14 and (2m), 341.17 (8), 341.19 (1) (a), 341.25, 341.255 (1), (2) (a), (b), and (c), (4), and  
15 (5), 341.26 (1), (2), (2m) (am) and (b), (3), (3m), (4), (5), and (7), and (8), 341.264 (1),  
16 341.265 (1), 341.266 (2) (b) and (3), 341.268 (2) (b) and (3), 341.30 (3), 341.305 (3),  
17 341.308 (3), 341.36 (1) and (1m), 341.51 (2), and 342.14, except s. 342.14 (1r). The  
18 revenues deposited are the trustee's revenues in accordance with the agreement  
19 between this state and the trustee or in accordance with the resolution pledging the

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1 revenues to the repayment of revenue obligations issued under this section. Revenue  
2 obligations issued for the purposes specified in sub. (1) and for the repayment of  
3 which revenues are deposited under this paragraph are special fund obligations, as  
4 defined in s. 18.52 (7), issued for special fund programs, as defined in s. 18.52 (8).

5 **SECTION 3.** 341.145 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 341.145 (3) In addition to the regular application fee provided under s. 341.25  
7 (1) (a), (c), or (j) or (2) or 341.26 (3) (a) 2. or (am) or (8), the applicant for a personalized  
8 registration plate issued on an annual basis shall pay a fee of \$15 for the issuance  
9 of the plate and \$15 in each succeeding year to maintain the plate. In addition to the  
10 regular application fee provided under s. 341.25 (1) (b) or 341.26 (3) (a) 1. or (8), the  
11 applicant for a personalized registration plate issued on a biennial basis shall pay  
12 a fee of \$30 for issuance of the plate if the plate is issued during the first year of the  
13 biennial registration period or \$15 for issuance of the plate if the plate is issued  
14 during the 2nd year of the biennial registration period. The fee to maintain a  
15 personalized plate issued on a biennial basis is \$30. The fee for reissuance of a  
16 personalized plate shall be \$15 for an annual registration and \$30 for a biennial  
17 registration. An applicant for personalized plates issued under sub. (1) (b) or (c),  
18 including those for which the fee is established under s. 341.26 (8), shall not be  
19 required to pay the fee for initial issuance of the plates.

20 **SECTION 4.** 341.26 (8) of the statutes is created to read:

21 341.26 (8) CERTAIN VEHICLES DISPLAYING GOLD STAR FLAG SPECIAL PLATES. The fee  
22 for original registration of a vehicle that is issued special group registration plates  
23 under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m. and that is registered by the spouse or parent of a person  
24 who has died in combat while serving in the U.S. armed forces shall be the regular  
25 annual fee under s. 341.25 or regular biennial fee under s. 341.26 for the type of

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1 vehicle, except that the fee for a vehicle that has a gross weight of more than 8,000  
2 pounds may be no more than the annual or biennial fee for a similar vehicle that has  
3 a gross weight of not more than 8,000 pounds. No fee may be charged for each  
4 renewal of registration of the vehicle.

**SECTION 5. Nonstatutory provisions.**

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6 (1) Any individual who is the spouse or parent of a person who has died in  
7 combat while serving in the U.S. armed forces and who is the owner of any vehicle  
8 for which, on the effective date of this subsection, the vehicle's current registration  
9 requires the vehicle to display special group registration plates issued under section  
10 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m. of the statutes may, at the time for renewal of registration of the  
11 vehicle, treat the application for renewal of registration as an application for original  
12 registration for purposes of section 341.26 (8) of the statutes, as created by this act,  
13 pay the fee specified in section 341.26 (8) of the statutes, as created by this act, and  
14 thereafter not be subject to any fee for renewal of registration of the vehicle.

**SECTION 6. Initial applicability.**

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

**SECTION 7. Effective date.**

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

21 (END)