



2007 SENATE BILL 20

February 1, 2007 - Introduced by Senators HANSEN, SULLIVAN, COGGS, COWLES, WIRCH, PLALE, SCHULTZ, LEIBHAM and GROTHMAN, cosponsored by Representatives MUSSER, SOLETSKI, NELSON, BERCEAU, TURNER, BLACK, BIES, MURSAU, VAN ROY, SMITH and SHERIDAN. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism and Insurance.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 341.14 (6r) (g) and 341.14 (8) (a) and (b) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** special distinguishing registration plates for fire fighters and
3 groups that are military in nature.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law allows the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue special distinguishing registration plates for certain vehicles to members of certain authorized special groups enumerated by statute, including fire fighters. If a person issued special fire fighters' plates is no longer a fire fighter, the person must dispose of the special fire fighters' plates in a manner prescribed by DOT.

Also under current law, if special plates for a group that is military in nature have been issued to a person, upon application by the surviving spouse of that person, DOT may permit the surviving spouse to retain these special plates.

Under this bill, if a fire fighter has been issued special fire fighters' plates and the fire fighter dies in the line of duty, DOT must allow the surviving spouse of the fire fighter, upon application to DOT, to retain the special fire fighters' plates. DOT must also allow the surviving spouse, upon request, to change the plate from a personalized plate to a standard plate or from a standard plate to a personalized plate. The bill also makes these same special plate retention and modification provisions applicable under current law to special plates for groups that are military in nature mandatory upon DOT, rather than permissive.

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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.** 341.14 (6r) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 341.14 **(6r)** (g) ~~If Except as provided in sub. (8) (a), if~~ an individual in possession
3 of special plates under par. (f) 33., 34. or 48. or of personalized plates under s. 341.145
4 (1) (c) of the same color and design as special plates under par. (f) 33., 34. or 48. does
5 not maintain membership in the applicable authorized special group during a year
6 that is not a plate issuance year, the individual shall dispose of the special plates in
7 a manner prescribed by the department.

8 **SECTION 2.** 341.14 (8) (a) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

9 341.14 **(8)** (a) If a special plate for a group associated with a branch of the armed
10 services or otherwise military in nature has been issued to a person under this
11 section, ~~or if a special plate under par. (f) 33. has been issued to a person who dies~~
12 ~~in the line of duty,~~ upon application by the surviving spouse of the person, the
13 department ~~may~~ shall permit the surviving spouse to retain the plate. If the plate
14 has been returned to the department or surrendered to another state, the
15 department ~~may~~ shall reissue the plate to the surviving spouse. The department
16 shall charge an additional fee of \$15 to reissue the plate.

17 (b) For a plate retained under this subsection, upon request of the surviving
18 spouse, the department ~~may~~ shall change the plate from a personalized plate to a
19 standard plate. Upon request of a surviving spouse and upon payment of the
20 additional fee under s. 341.145 (3), the department ~~may~~ shall personalize the plate
21 or modify any existing personalization to the plate.

