

CHAPTER 495

H.B. No. 70

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of specially designed license plates for certain veterans of military service.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 5k, Chapter 88, General Laws, Acts of the 41st Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 1929 (Article 6675a-5k, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as amended by Chapters 654 and 659, Acts of the 72nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1991, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (d), and (l) to read as follows:

(a) The department shall design and provide for the issuance of special license plates depicting the state capitol for passenger cars and light commercial motor vehicles having a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of one ton or less and shall design and provide for the issuance of special license plates for those vehicles that are owned by persons who are:

- (1) active or retired members of a branch of the armed forces of the United States;
- (2) the surviving spouses of individuals killed in action while serving in the armed forces of the United States, as long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried;
- (3) survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, or their surviving spouses who have not remarried;
- (4) recipients of the Purple Heart medal or recipients' surviving spouses who have not remarried;
- (5) members of the United States Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol, members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, or members of the Marine Corps League or its auxiliary;

(6) persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after December 6, 1941, and before January 1, 1947;

(7) persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after June 26, 1950, and before February 1, 1955;

(8) [(6)] persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after August 4, 1964, and before May 8, 1975; or

(9) [(7)] persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States, were deployed to the Middle East, and there participated in Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm.

(b) License plates issued to a member of a branch of the armed forces, or to the individual's surviving spouse as provided by Subsection (a)(2) of this section, shall bear the designation of the appropriate branch of the armed forces. License plates issued to Pearl Harbor survivors or their surviving spouses who have not remarried shall bear the words

“Pearl Harbor Survivor” and shall be numbered consecutively. License plates issued to recipients, or surviving spouses of recipients, of the Purple Heart medal shall bear the Purple Heart emblem, shall bear the words “Purple Heart” at the bottom of each plate, and if numbered plates are issued, shall bear the letters “PH” as the prefix or suffix to the assigned number. License plates issued to members of the civil air patrol shall bear the words “Texas Wing Civil Air Patrol.” License plates issued to members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary shall bear the words “Coast Guard Auxiliary.” *License plates issued to members of the Marine Corps League or its auxiliary shall bear the words “Marine Corps League” and the emblem of the Marine Corps League. License plates issued to persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after December 6, 1941, and before January 1, 1947, shall bear the words “WWII Veteran.” License plates issued to persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after June 26, 1950, and before February 1, 1955, shall bear the words “Korea Veteran.” License plates issued to persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after August 4, 1964, and before May 8, 1975, shall bear the words “Vietnam Veteran.” License plates issued to persons who served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States, were deployed to the Middle East, and there participated in Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm shall bear the words “Desert Storm.”*

(d) A person who applies for:

(1) armed forces [~~license plates~~], Coast Guard Auxiliary, [~~or~~] Civil Air Patrol, *or Marine Corps League* license plates must submit proof that the person is eligible to receive the plates;

(2) Pearl Harbor license plates must submit proof that the person:

(A) served in the armed forces of the United States;

(B) was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands on December 7, 1941; and

(C) survived the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; or

(D) is the surviving spouse of an individual who meets the requirements of Paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this subdivision;

(3) Purple Heart license plates must submit proof that the person:

(A) has been awarded the Purple Heart medal and is:

(i) an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States; or

(ii) a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty; or

(B)(i) is the surviving spouse of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal who was an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States or a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty on the date of death; and

(ii) has not remarried;

(4) *World War II veteran license plates must submit proof that the person served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after December 6, 1941, and before January 1, 1947, and is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States;*

(5) *Korean conflict veteran license plates must submit proof that the person served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after June 26, 1950, and before February 1, 1955, and is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States;*

(6) [44] Vietnam veteran license plates must submit proof that the person served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States after August 4, 1964, and before May 8, 1975, and:

(A) is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States; or

(B) is a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty; and

(7) [45] Desert Storm license plates must submit proof that the person served in a branch of the armed forces of the United States, was deployed to the Middle East, and there participated in Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm and:

(A) is an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces or reserve component of the armed forces of the United States; or

(B) is a member of the armed forces of the United States, a member of the Texas Army National Guard, a member of the Texas Air National Guard, or a member of a reserve component of the United States armed forces.

(l) A person may only be issued one set of armed forces license plates, one set of civil air patrol license plates, one set of Pearl Harbor license plates, one set of Coast Guard Auxiliary license plates, *one set of World War II veteran license plates, one set of Korea veteran license plates, one set of Vietnam veteran license plates, one set of Desert Storm license plates, and one set of Purple Heart license plates.* If the owner of a vehicle for which plates, other than license plates depicting the capitol, are issued under this section disposes of the vehicle during a registration year, the person shall return the special plates to the department, and at that time may apply for issuance of those plates to another vehicle.

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 7, 1993: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments on May 22, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 19, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 3, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.