

CHAPTER 286

H.B. No. 285

AN ACT

relating to the availability of special license plates for the surviving spouses of former prisoners of war.

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

SECTION 1. Section 5e.2, Chapter 88, General Laws, Acts of the 41st Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 1929 (Article 6675a-5e.2, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by Chapter 470, Acts of the 66th Legislature, Regular Session, 1979, is redesignated as Section 5g and is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5g [5e.2]. (a) Any person, other than a person discharged from the armed forces under conditions less than honorable, who was captured and incarcerated by an enemy of the United States during a period of conflict with the United States, is entitled to register under this Section, for the person's own use, one (1) passenger car or light commercial vehicle having a manufacturer's rated carrying capacity of one (1) ton or less, without payment of any annual registration fee or service charge.

(b) The Department shall design and provide for the issuance of special license plates for persons entitled to register under this Section. The license plates shall be designed to indicate that the recipient is a former prisoner of war.

(c) A person may apply to the Department at any time for registration under this Section on a form prescribed by the Department. The Department shall require an applicant to submit proof of eligibility to register under this Section. Registration under this Section is valid for one (1) year.

(d) If license plates issued under this Section are lost, stolen, or mutilated, the owner of the vehicle for which the plates were issued may obtain replacement plates from the Department without charge. If the owner of a vehicle registered under this Section disposes of the vehicle during the registration year, the person shall return the special license plates to the Department. At that time the person may register another passenger car or light commercial motor vehicle under this Section without charge.

(e) A person who has registered a vehicle and received license plates under this Section may renew the registration of the vehicle without charge through application to the County Tax Collector in the county of the person's residence for an annual registration sticker.

(f) The surviving spouse of a deceased person who was issued license plates under this Section is entitled to continue to register one (1) motor vehicle under this Section for as long as the spouse remains unmarried. When the spouse applies to renew a registration under this Section, the County Tax Collector shall require the spouse to make a sworn statement that the spouse is unmarried.

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 April 23, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting. Passed by the Senate on May 22, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 11, 1987.

Effective June 11, 1987.