

HOUSE BILL NO. 5048

September 24, 2025, Introduced by Reps. DeBoer, Rigas, Pavlov, Weiss, Wortz, Cavitt, Markkanen, Jenkins-Arno, Fox, Woolford, Kuhn, Brixie, Meerman, Bierlein, Bohnak, St. Germaine, Tisdell, Bruck, Outman, Frisbie and Greene and referred to Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 803e (MCL 257.803e), as amended by 2022 PA 143.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 803e. (1) A person who was a prisoner of war or a person
2 whose spouse was a prisoner of war may apply to the secretary of
3 state for a special registration plate inscribed with special
4 identification numbers preceded by the letters "EX-POW" and the
5 words "ex-prisoner of war" beneath the registration number.

6 (2) A person who was a member **or a person whose spouse was a**

1 **member** of the United States Armed Forces during ~~World War I~~ **the**
 2 **Cold War era** may apply to the secretary of state for a special
 3 registration plate ~~inscribed with special identification numbers~~
 4 ~~preceded by the letters "WWI" and the words "World War I veteran"~~
 5 ~~beneath the registration number.~~ **that displays an appropriate**
 6 **vignette preceding the registration numbers and has the word**
 7 **"veteran" inscribed beneath the registration numbers. This plate**
 8 **may not be combined with another registration plate.**

9 (3) A person who was a member of the United States Armed
 10 Forces during 1941, was stationed at a United States military or
 11 naval establishment at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands, and
 12 survived the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941
 13 may apply to the secretary of state for a special registration
 14 plate inscribed with special identification numbers and the words
 15 "Pearl Harbor survivor" beneath the registration number.

16 (4) A recipient of the Purple Heart Medal may apply to the
 17 secretary of state for a special registration plate inscribed with
 18 special identification numbers and the words "combat wounded
 19 veteran" beneath the registration number. In addition, the special
 20 registration plate described in this subsection must be inscribed
 21 with a vignette of the official Purple Heart Medal.

22 (5) Application for a special registration plate **under**
 23 **subsections (1), (2), (3), or (4)** must be on a form prescribed by
 24 the secretary of state and must be accompanied by any proof of the
 25 applicant having been a prisoner of war, ~~World War I~~ **Cold War**
 26 veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, or recipient of the Purple Heart
 27 Medal that the secretary of state may require. Application for a
 28 "Gold Star Family" special registration plate described in
 29 subsection (9) or a "Blue Star Family" special registration plate

described in subsection (10) must be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and must be accompanied by any proof of the applicant having been a gold star or blue star family member that the secretary of state may require. The application for the special registration plate must not require a service fee under section 804.

(6) ~~Upon~~ **On** proper application, the secretary of state shall issue 1 or more special registration plates under this section for each applicant for use on a passenger vehicle. A person who is disabled who applies for a special registration plate under this section must be issued a tab for persons with disabilities as provided in section 803f for ~~his or her~~ **that** special registration plate. The secretary of state shall require the same proof that the applicant is a disabled person as is required for issuance of a permanent windshield placard under section 675. One person in any household is entitled to 1 special registration plate issued under subsection (1) that is exempt from payment of the tax provided in section 801. The person who is issued an additional special registration plate under subsection (1) must be assessed the applicable tax provided for in section 801. A person issued 1 or more special registration plates under subsection (2), (3), (4), (9), or (10) must be assessed the applicable tax provided in section 801.

(7) The use of a special registration plate issued under this section on a vehicle other than the vehicle for which the plate is issued, or by a person who does not qualify under this section, is a misdemeanor.

(8) The special registration plate issued under this section expires on the birthday of the vehicle owner in a year in which new

plates are issued by the secretary of state. Application for renewal of the special registration plate must not require a service fee under section 804. The applicant **for renewal of the special registration plate** is not required to furnish the proof provided in subsection (5).

(9) A gold star family member may apply to the secretary of state for a special registration plate inscribed with special identification numbers preceded by a gold star and the words "Gold Star Family" beneath the registration number.

(10) A blue star family member may apply to the secretary of state for a special registration plate inscribed with special identification numbers preceded by a Blue Star Families insignia and the words "Blue Star Family" beneath the registration number.

(11) As used in this section:

(a) "Blue star family member" means a person who is currently serving in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces or a person who has an immediate family member serving in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces. As used in this subdivision, "immediate family member" means a parent, stepparent, adoptive parent, foster parent standing in loco parentis, child, stepchild, adopted child, sibling, half-sibling, spouse, or grandparent.

(b) "Cold War era" means September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

(c) ~~(b)~~ "Gold star family member" means a person who has had an immediate family member die while serving in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces if the immediate family member meets any of the

1 eligibility criteria specified in 10 USC 1126(a)(1) to (3) for a
2 gold star lapel button.

3 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 365 days
4 after the date it is enacted into law.