



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 228

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 6724

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. FOSTER of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE IN RECOGNITION OF "THE BORINQUEENERS".

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) On and after January 1,
2 2026, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue commemorative
3 number plates in recognition of the primarily Puerto Rican members of
4 the Sixty-Fifth Infantry Regiment of the United States Army who served
5 with distinction and were known as "The Borinqueneers". The design of
6 the number plates shall be determined by the Commissioner of Motor
7 Vehicles in consultation with Hispanic-American Veterans of
8 Connecticut, Inc. No use shall be made of such plates, except as official
9 registration marker plates.

10 (b) A fee of sixty dollars shall be charged for "The Borinqueneers"
11 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees
12 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of such
13 fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of
14 Motor Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing

15 and replacing such number plates, and forty-five dollars of such fee
16 shall be deposited in an account to be used by Hispanic-American
17 Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
18 section. No additional fee shall be charged in connection with the
19 renewal of such number plates. No transfer fee shall be charged for the
20 transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration with "The
21 Borinqueneers" commemorative number plates. Such number plates
22 shall have letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor
23 Vehicles. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher
24 fee for number plates: (1) Which contain the numbers and letters from a
25 previously issued number plate; (2) which contain letters in place of
26 numbers, as authorized by section 14-49 of the general statutes, in
27 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section;
28 and (3) which are low number plates, issued in accordance with section
29 14-160 of the general statutes, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed
30 for registration under said section. All fees established and collected
31 pursuant to this section, except the amount deposited in the account
32 controlled by the Department of Motor Vehicles, shall be deposited in
33 the "Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut" commemorative
34 account, established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The
35 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance
36 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish
37 standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of
38 "The Borinqueneers" commemorative number plates.

39 (c) There is established the "Hispanic-American Veterans of
40 Connecticut" commemorative account which shall be a separate,
41 nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain
42 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. The funds
43 in said account shall be used by Hispanic-American Veterans of
44 Connecticut, Inc. to provide bilingual services and assistance to
45 Connecticut veterans and members of the armed forces. Hispanic-
46 American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. may receive private donations
47 to said account and any such donations shall be deposited in said
48 account.

49 (d) The funds in the account shall be distributed quarterly by the
50 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to Hispanic-American
51 Veterans of Connecticut, Inc.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	New section

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Revenue Gain/Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	Hispanic-American Veterans of CT (non-lapsing GF) - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a commemorative license plate for "The Borinqueneers" and an associated fee of \$60 for such plates (in addition to regular registration fees), of which \$15 is deposited to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and \$45 is deposited to the newly established "Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut" account to be administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The bill requires OPM to distribute funds from the newly established account quarterly to the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. for purposes described in the bill.

To the extent that such plates are requested, the bill results in minimal fiscal impact for the DMV for plate costs and fee revenue as well as minimal revenue to the "Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut" account.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of plates issued.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6724*****AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE IN RECOGNITION OF "THE BORINQUENEERS".*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner, by January 1, 2026, to issue commemorative license plates in recognition of the "The Borinqueneers" (the primarily Puerto Rican members of the 65th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army who served with distinction). Under the bill, the commissioner is required to determine the design of the plates in consultation with Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc.

The bill requires a \$60 fee for this plate, in addition to the regular fees for registering a motor vehicle. Under the bill:

1. \$15 of the fee must be deposited in an account controlled by the DMV for the cost of (a) producing, (b) issuing, (c) renewing, and (d) replacing the license plates; and
2. \$45 of the fee must be deposited in an account for Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. to provide bilingual services and assistance to Connecticut veterans and armed forces members.

The plates must have numbers and letters selected by DMV, but the commissioner may charge a higher fee for license plates that (1) have the numbers and letters from a previously-issued plate or (2) have letters instead of numbers or are low number plates, in addition to the fees set for these registrations by law.

The bill requires that no additional fee be charged for the (1) renewal of this license plate or (2) transfer of an existing registration to or from a

registration with a “The Borinqueneers” plate.

The bill establishes the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut commemorative account as a separate account in the General Fund to receive all of the fees other than the money designated for DMV’s cost and permits the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. to deposit private donations in this account. Under the bill, funds in the account must be distributed quarterly by the Office of Policy and Management secretary to Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc., which can use the funds as described above.

The bill allows DMV to adopt regulations to set standards and procedures for issuing, renewing, and replacing these license plates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Definition of a Veteran

A “veteran” is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (i.e. the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103).

A qualifying condition is a (1) post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury diagnosis by a licensed health care professional at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility; (2) military sexual trauma disclosed to such a health care professional; or (3) determination by the Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (CGS § 27-103).

Related Bills

sHB 5074, favorably reported by the Veterans’ and Military Affairs Committee, requires the motor vehicles commissioner, at the request of

a woman who is a veteran or member of the armed forces, to register a motor vehicle and issue a special certificate of registration and a set of license plates commemorating the woman's service.

HB 5787 (File 40), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, allows veterans and members of the armed forces who get a license plate recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart to apply for reimbursement of the cost of joining a chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in order to get the license plate.

HB 6734, favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, reduces the fee for veterans and armed forces members, for certain military-related license plates, to the cost to make these plates.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)