



General Assembly

Corrected Copy
Committee Bill No. 6734

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 5713



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Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

**AN ACT REDUCING FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES THE FEE FOR CERTAIN SPECIALTY MOTOR
VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES TO NOT MORE THAN THE COST TO
MAKE SUCH PLATES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-20b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any veteran
4 or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such veteran
5 or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period
6 of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of
7 registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle,
8 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates
9 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any
10 such veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of
11 such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as
12 a trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided
13 in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates,

14 which fee shall [cover] be not more than the entire cost of making such
15 plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor
16 vehicle. The commissioner shall charge a fee of fifteen dollars to replace
17 such plates that become mutilated or illegible. Any such member of the
18 armed forces who is dishonorably discharged shall return such plates to
19 the commissioner not later than thirty days after such discharge. The
20 commissioner shall not renew such plates for any motor vehicle owned
21 or leased by any such member of the armed forces who is dishonorably
22 discharged.

23 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any
24 person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units,
25 which units served in the United States secret war in the Kingdom of
26 Laos during the Vietnam War, or any person who is an eligible former
27 reservist, or the surviving spouse of any such person, and after
28 verification from the Department of Veterans Affairs as provided under
29 subdivision (2) or (3), as applicable, of this subsection, shall register any
30 motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least one year by such
31 person and shall issue a special certificate of registration and a set of
32 number plates for each such motor vehicle, including a special certificate
33 of registration and a set of number plates for any motor vehicle used
34 exclusively for farming purposes by any such person, or the surviving
35 spouse of such person, who is engaged in agricultural production as a
36 trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided
37 in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates,
38 which fee shall [cover] be not more than the entire cost of making such
39 plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor
40 vehicle.

41 (2) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special
42 guerilla units, or the surviving spouse of such person, may submit a
43 request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran,
44 based on such person's service during the Vietnam War, for the purpose
45 of obtaining a special certificate of registration and a set of number
46 plates under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Such person, or the

47 surviving spouse of such person, shall provide to said department (A)
48 an affidavit stating (i) when such person served, (ii) where such person
49 served, (iii) the unit in which such person served, and (iv) the capacity
50 in which such person served; (B) any available corroborating witness
51 affidavits; (C) any available official documentation of service; and (D)
52 any other documents supporting such person's or such surviving
53 spouse's affidavit. Said department shall, not later than thirty days after
54 receipt of such request, verify whether such person was a member of the
55 Hmong Laotian special guerilla units and, if so verified, notify the
56 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of such request and verification.

57 (3) (A) Any person who is an eligible former reservist, or the
58 surviving spouse of such person, may submit a request to the
59 Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran, based on such
60 person's service in a reserve component of the armed forces, for the
61 purpose of obtaining a special certificate of registration and a set of
62 number plates under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Such person, or
63 the surviving spouse of such person, shall provide to said department
64 all available official documentation of such service. Said department
65 shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such request, verify such
66 person's service and, if so verified, notify the Commissioner of Motor
67 Vehicles of such request and verification.

68 (B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
69 subsection or subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, neither the issuance
70 of such registration and number plates to a person by the Commissioner
71 of Motor Vehicles nor the listing of such person as a veteran by the
72 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall constitute proof of such person's
73 eligibility for any other benefit available to veterans.

74 (c) As used in this section, "eligible former reservist" means any
75 person honorably discharged from, released under honorable
76 conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge
77 based on a qualifying condition from, the United States Army Reserve,
78 Army National Guard, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast

79 Guard Reserve, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard; and "veteran",
80 "armed forces" and "qualifying condition" have the same meanings as
81 provided in section 27-103.

82 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-20d of the general statutes is
83 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
84 *2025*):

85 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, at the request of any
86 veteran or member of the armed forces who received a campaign medal,
87 issue special registration number plates to indicate service during a
88 period of war. Such plates shall bear the words "(Name of War) Veteran"
89 and shall be designed in consultation with the Commissioner of
90 Veterans Affairs. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in
91 section 14-22. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall charge a fee for
92 such plates, which fee shall [cover] be not more than the entire cost of
93 making such plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of
94 such motor vehicle. No use shall be made of such plates except as official
95 registration number plates.

96 Sec. 3. Section 14-19a of the general statutes is repealed and the
97 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

98 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations
99 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish [(1)] (A)
100 standards for the issuance of a special certificate of registration and
101 special number plates to a member of an organization which qualifies
102 for issuance, [(2)] (B) qualifications of organizations whose members
103 wish to apply for such special registrations, [(3)] (C) procedures for
104 application for such special registration, and [(4)] (D) except as provided
105 in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a fee for such special number plates
106 which shall cover at least the entire cost of making the plates and which
107 shall be in addition to the fee for registration of the motor vehicle. The
108 regulations shall provide that a labor union shall be a qualifying
109 organization.

110 (2) In the case of any veteran or member of the armed forces, as those
111 terms are defined in section 27-103, who applies for any of the following
112 special number plates and who is eligible to apply for such plate, the fee
113 for such plate shall be not more than the entire cost of making such plate
114 and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of the motor vehicle:
115 (A) Disabled American Veterans plate; (B) Greater Hartford Chapter of
116 the Eighty-Second Airborne plate; (C) Iwo Jima Survivor plate; (D)
117 Korean War Veterans Association plate; (E) Laos Veterans of America
118 plate; (F) Marine Corps League plate; (G) Military Order of the Purple
119 Heart plate; (H) National Guard Association of Connecticut (active)
120 plate; (I) National Guard Association of Connecticut (retired) plate; (J)
121 Pearl Harbor 1941 Survivor plate; and (K) United States Submarine
122 Veterans plate.

123 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Board
124 of Regents for Higher Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
125 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards for the issuance
126 and renewal of collegiate special number plates with the logos or
127 emblems of Connecticut public and independent institutions of higher
128 education.

129 (c) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special
130 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance with
131 the regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section provided
132 the commissioner may not issue a set of special number plates bearing
133 the same numerals as any other plate issued by the department. The
134 commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any such special number
135 plates issued for a qualified organization, or special plates issued in
136 accordance with the provisions of sections 14-19b and 14-21f to 14-21p,
137 inclusive, at any time, upon written notice to the organization if, in the
138 opinion of the commissioner, the demand for such plates is insufficient
139 to support the costs of production.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	14-20b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	14-20d(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	14-19a

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce for veterans and members of the armed forces the fee for certain military-related specialty motor vehicle number plates to not more than the cost to make such plates.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. FOSTER, 57th Dist.; REP. MARTINEZ, 22nd Dist.
REP. GAUTHIER, 38th Dist.; REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.

H.B. 6734