

Senate Fiscal Agency  
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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 157 (as enrolled)  
Sponsor: Senator Mike Rogers  
Committee: Transportation and Tourism

Date Completed: 6-11-99

### **RATIONALE**

The Michigan Vehicle Code permits a special registration plate to be issued to veterans of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and World War II as well as a person who was a member of the Michigan National Guard, the U.S. armed forces reserve, or any branch of the armed services and who was called to active duty during the Persian Gulf War. The Code also permits a special registration plate to be issued to a person who, on or after December 18, 1992, was a member of the Michigan National Guard, the U.S. armed forces, or the armed forces reserve and who was called to active duty during a declared war or an armed conflict in which the U.S. was a participant. According to the Secretary of State, approximately 49,000 veterans' plates had been issued as of October 1, 1997. In some cases, a veteran who was issued a special registration has died, and his or her spouse wants to continue using the specialty plate, which displays an appropriate vignette preceding the registration numbers and has the word "veteran" inscribed beneath them. Some people believe that the spouse of a veteran also should be able to purchase a veteran's registration plate in honor of the service rendered by his or her spouse.

### **CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to permit a person whose spouse was a member of the United States armed forces, or was a member of the U.S. armed forces reserve, the Michigan National Guard, or the armed services and was called to active duty during a particular war or armed conflict, to apply to the Secretary of State for a special veteran registration plate. The application for a special registration plate would have to be accompanied by proof of the applicant's spouse having been a veteran and payment of a \$5 service fee.

MCL 257.803j

### **ARGUMENTS**

(Please note: The arguments contained in this analysis

*originate from sources outside the Senate Fiscal Agency. The Senate Fiscal Agency neither supports nor opposes legislation.)*

### **Supporting Argument**

Michigan residents who are veterans of the armed forces may purchase registration plates that commemorate their service to the country. These plates may be displayed on vehicles that are driven by the veterans and/or their spouses or families. Upon the death of a veteran, however, his or her spouse is unable to continue purchasing the specialty plate. Since the spouses of many veterans shared in the sacrifice and pride of the veterans' service, the bill would permit a surviving spouse to purchase and display a specialty registration plate, upon making proper application and providing proof of military service to the Secretary of State.

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

By widening the number of people eligible to apply for veteran's plates, the bill could generate a small increase in revenue from service fees for the Department of State. Because the number of eligible individuals who would apply is unknown, the fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate.

Fiscal Analyst: E. Limbs

### **A9900s157a**

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.