

SENATE BILL NO. 352

May 23, 2023, Introduced by Senators LAUWERS, BELLINO, WOJNO, THEIS, KLINEFELT, CHANG, HOITENGA, HUIZENGA and DAMOOSE and referred to the 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 of the United States Armed

Forces during World War I may apply to the secretary of state for a special registration plate inscribed with special identification numbers preceded by the letters "WWI" and the words "World War I veteran" beneath the registration number.

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

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

(5) Application for a special registration plate must be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and must be accompanied by any proof of the applicant having been a prisoner of war, World War I veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, or recipient of the Purple Heart ~~Medal~~**medal** that the secretary of state may require. Application for a "Gold Star Family", ~~special registration plate described in subsection (9) or a "Blue Star Family", or a "Next of Kin"~~ special registration plate ~~described in subsection (10) under this section~~ must be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and must be accompanied by any proof of the applicant having been **next of kin, or** a gold star or blue star family member that the secretary of state may require. The application for the special

1 registration plate must not require a service fee under section
2 804.

3 (6) Upon proper application, the secretary of state shall
4 issue 1 or more special registration plates under this section for
5 each applicant for use on a passenger vehicle. A person who is
6 disabled ~~who~~ **and** applies for a special registration plate under
7 this section must be issued a tab for persons with disabilities as
8 provided in section 803f for ~~his or her~~ **that** special registration
9 plate. The secretary of state shall require the same proof that the
10 applicant is a disabled person as is required for issuance of a
11 permanent windshield placard under section 675. One person in any
12 household is entitled to 1 special registration plate issued under
13 subsection (1) that is exempt from payment of the tax provided in
14 section 801. The person who is issued an additional special
15 registration plate under subsection (1) must be assessed the
16 applicable tax provided ~~for~~ in section 801. A person issued 1 or
17 more special registration plates under subsection (2), (3), (4),
18 (9), ~~or~~ (10), **or (11)** must be assessed the applicable tax provided
19 in section 801.

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

24 (8) ~~The~~ **A** special registration plate issued under this section
25 expires on the birthday of the vehicle owner in a year in which new
26 plates are issued by the secretary of state. Application for
27 renewal of the special registration plate must not require a
28 service fee under section 804. The applicant is not required to
29 furnish the proof provided in subsection (5).

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

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

9 **(11) A next of kin family member may apply to the secretary of**
10 **state for a special registration plate inscribed with special**
11 **identification numbers preceded by an insignia of a Next of Kin of**
12 **Deceased Personnel lapel button and the words "Next of Kin" beneath**
13 **the registration number.**

14 **(12)** ~~(11)~~ As used in this section:

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

24 (b) "Gold star family member" means a person who has had an
25 immediate family member die while serving in the United States
26 Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States
27 Armed Forces if the immediate family member meets any of the
28 eligibility criteria specified in 10 USC 1126(a)(1) to (3) for a
29 gold star lapel button.

1 (c) "Next of kin" means a person who is a qualified family
2 member of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who
3 lost their life while serving on active duty or while assigned in
4 an Army Reserve or Army National Guard unit in a drill status. As
5 used in this subdivision, "qualified family member" means the
6 deceased member's surviving spouse, even if the surviving spouse
7 has remarried, and each biological parent, step-parent, adoptive
8 parent, foster parent who stood in loco parentis, child, step-
9 child, adopted child, sibling, and half-sibling of the deceased
10 member.

11 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect October
12 1, 2023.