



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5048**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEES FOR VETERANS' SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-20b of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any veteran  
5 or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such veteran  
6 or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period  
7 of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of  
8 registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle,  
9 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates  
10 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any  
11 such veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of  
12 such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as  
13 a trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided  
14 in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates,  
15 which fee shall cover one-half of the [entire] cost of making such plates  
16 and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle.  
17 The commissioner shall charge a fee of fifteen dollars to replace such  
18 plates that become mutilated or illegible. As used in this subsection,

19 "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in  
20 section 27-103.

21 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any  
22 person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units,  
23 which units served in the United States secret war in the Kingdom of  
24 Laos during the Vietnam War, or the surviving spouse of such person,  
25 and after verification from the Department of Veterans Affairs as  
26 provided under subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall register any  
27 motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least one year by such  
28 person and shall issue a special certificate of registration and a set of  
29 number plates for each such motor vehicle, including a special certificate  
30 of registration and a set of number plates for any motor vehicle used  
31 exclusively for farming purposes by any such person, or the surviving  
32 spouse of such person, who is engaged in agricultural production as a  
33 trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided  
34 in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates,  
35 which fee shall cover one-half of the [entire] cost of making such plates  
36 and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle.

37 (2) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special  
38 guerilla units, or the surviving spouse of such person, may submit a  
39 request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran,  
40 based on such service, for the purpose of obtaining a special certificate  
41 of registration and a set of number plates under subdivision (1) of this  
42 subsection. Such person, or the surviving spouse of such person, shall  
43 provide to said department (A) an affidavit stating (i) when such person  
44 served, (ii) where such person served, (iii) the unit in which such person  
45 served, and (iv) the capacity in which such person served; (B) any  
46 available corroborating witness affidavits; (C) any available official  
47 documentation of service; and (D) any other documents supporting  
48 such person's or such surviving spouse's affidavit. Said department  
49 shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such request, verify  
50 whether such person was a member of the Hmong Laotian special  
51 guerilla units and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of

52 such request and verification.

53 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-20d of the general statutes is  
54 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
55 *1, 2023*):

56 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, at the request of any  
57 veteran or member of the armed forces who received a campaign medal,  
58 issue special registration number plates to indicate service during a  
59 period of war. Such plates shall bear the words "(Name of War) Veteran"  
60 and shall be designed in consultation with the Commissioner of  
61 Veterans Affairs. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in  
62 section 14-22. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall charge a fee for  
63 such plates, which fee shall cover one-half of the [entire] cost of making  
64 such plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such  
65 motor vehicle. No use shall be made of such plates except as official  
66 registration number plates.

67 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-21u of the general statutes is  
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
69 *1, 2023*):

70 (b) (1) A fee of sixty dollars shall be charged for Support Our Troops!  
71 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees  
72 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of such  
73 fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of  
74 Motor Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing  
75 and replacing such number plates, and forty-five dollars of such fee  
76 shall be deposited in an account to be used by Connecticut Support Our  
77 Troops, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this section. No  
78 additional fee shall be charged in connection with the renewal of such  
79 number plates. No transfer fee shall be charged for the transfer of an  
80 existing registration to or from a registration with Support Our Troops!  
81 commemorative number plates. Such number plates shall have letters  
82 and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The  
83 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher fee for number

84 plates [:(1) Which contain] that: (A) Contain the numbers and letters  
85 from a previously issued number plate; [(2) which] (B) contain letters in  
86 place of numbers, as authorized by section 14-49, in addition to the fee  
87 or fees prescribed for registration under said section; and [(3) which] (C)  
88 are low number plates, issued in accordance with section 14-160, in  
89 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section.  
90 All fees established and collected pursuant to this section, except the  
91 amount deposited in the account controlled by the Department of Motor  
92 Vehicles, shall be deposited in the "Support Our Troops!"  
93 commemorative account, established pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
94 section. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in  
95 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards and  
96 procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of Support Our  
97 Troops! commemorative number plates.

98 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
99 subsection, in the case of any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or  
100 member of the armed forces, as defined in said section, a fee of thirty  
101 dollars shall be charged for Support Our Troops! commemorative  
102 number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees prescribed for the  
103 registration of a motor vehicle. Seven dollars and fifty cents of such fee  
104 shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of Motor  
105 Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing and  
106 replacing such number plates, and twenty-two dollars and fifty cents of  
107 such fee shall be deposited in an account to be used by Connecticut  
108 Support Our Troops, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this  
109 section.

110 Sec. 4. Section 14-19a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
111 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

112 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations  
113 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish [(1)] (A)  
114 standards for the issuance of a special certificate of registration and  
115 special number plates to a member of an organization which qualifies  
116 for issuance, [(2)] (B) qualifications of organizations whose members

117 wish to apply for such special registrations, [(3)] (C) procedures for  
118 application for such special registration, and [(4)] (D) a fee for such  
119 special number plates which shall cover at least the entire cost of making  
120 the plates and which shall be in addition to the fee for registration of the  
121 motor vehicle. The regulations shall provide that a labor union shall be  
122 a qualifying organization.

123 (2) In the case of any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or member  
124 of the armed forces, as defined in said section, who applies for any of  
125 the following special number plates and who is eligible to apply for such  
126 plate, the fee for such plate shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee  
127 established in any regulation adopted under subdivision (1) of this  
128 subsection for such plate and shall be in addition to the fee for  
129 registration of the motor vehicle: (A) Connecticut Army National Guard  
130 Aviation plate; (B) Disabled American Veterans plate; (C) First  
131 Company Governor's Foot Guard plate; (D) First Company Governor's  
132 Horse Guard plate; (E) Greater Hartford Chapter of the Eighty-Second  
133 Airborne plate; (F) Iwo Jima Survivor plate; (G) Korean War Veterans  
134 Association plate; (H) Laos Veterans of America plate; (I) Marine Corps  
135 League plate; (J) Military Order of the Purple Heart plate; (K) National  
136 Guard Association of Connecticut (active) plate; (L) National Guard  
137 Association of Connecticut (retired) plate; (M) Pearl Harbor 1941  
138 Survivor plate; (N) Second Company Governor's Foot Guard plate; and  
139 (O) United States Submarine Veterans plate.

140 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Board  
141 of Regents for Higher Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
142 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards for the issuance  
143 and renewal of collegiate special number plates with the logos or  
144 emblems of Connecticut public and independent institutions of higher  
145 education.

146 (c) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special  
147 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance with  
148 the regulations adopted under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this  
149 section provided the commissioner may not issue a set of special

150 number plates bearing the same numerals as any other plate issued by  
151 the department. The commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any  
152 such special number plates issued for a qualified organization, or special  
153 plates issued in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-19b and  
154 14-21f to 14-21p, inclusive, at any time, upon written notice to the  
155 organization if, in the opinion of the commissioner, the demand for such  
156 plates is insufficient to support the costs of production.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-20b(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-20d(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-21u(b)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-19a

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Section 3(b)(2) was rewritten for internal consistency; and Section 4 was rewritten for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**VA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*