



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 6502



Offered by:  
REP. NOLAN, 39<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5048

File No. 224

Cal. No. 159

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 14-20b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

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

16 which fee shall cover one-half of the [entire] cost of making such plates  
17 and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle.  
18 The commissioner shall charge a fee of fifteen dollars to replace such  
19 plates that become mutilated or illegible. [As used in this subsection,  
20 "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in  
21 section 27-103.] Any such member of the armed forces who is  
22 dishonorably discharged shall return such plates to the commissioner  
23 not later than thirty days after such discharge. The commissioner shall  
24 not renew such plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased by any  
25 such member of the armed forces who is dishonorably discharged.

26 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any  
27 person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units,  
28 which units served in the United States secret war in the Kingdom of  
29 Laos during the Vietnam War, or any person who is an eligible former  
30 reservist, or the surviving spouse of any such person, and after  
31 verification from the Department of Veterans Affairs as provided under  
32 subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection, as applicable, shall register any  
33 motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least one year by such  
34 person and shall issue a special certificate of registration and a set of  
35 number plates for each such motor vehicle, including a special certificate  
36 of registration and a set of number plates for any motor vehicle used  
37 exclusively for farming purposes by any such person, or the surviving  
38 spouse of such person, who is engaged in agricultural production as a  
39 trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided  
40 in section 14-22. The commissioner shall charge a fee for such plates,  
41 which fee shall cover one-half of the [entire] cost of making such plates  
42 and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle.

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

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

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

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

76 (c) [Any such member of the armed forces who is dishonorably  
77 discharged shall return such plates to the commissioner not later than  
78 thirty days after such discharge. The commissioner shall not renew such  
79 plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased by any such member of  
80 the armed forces who is dishonorably discharged.] As used in this  
81 section, "eligible former reservist" means any person honorably  
82 discharged from, released under honorable conditions from or released

83 with an other than honorable discharge based on a qualifying condition  
84 from, the United States Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Navy  
85 Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Air Force  
86 Reserve or Air National Guard; and "veteran", "armed forces" and  
87 "qualifying condition" have the same meanings as provided in section  
88 27-103.

89 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-20d of the general statutes is  
90 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
91 *1, 2023*):

92 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, at the request of any  
93 veteran or member of the armed forces who received a campaign medal,  
94 issue special registration number plates to indicate service during a  
95 period of war. Such plates shall bear the words "(Name of War) Veteran"  
96 and shall be designed in consultation with the Commissioner of  
97 Veterans Affairs. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in  
98 section 14-22. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall charge a fee for  
99 such plates, which fee shall cover one-half of the [entire] cost of making  
100 such plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such  
101 motor vehicle. No use shall be made of such plates except as official  
102 registration number plates.

103 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-21u of the general statutes is  
104 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
105 *1, 2023*):

106 (b) (1) A fee of sixty dollars shall be charged for Support Our Troops!  
107 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees  
108 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of such  
109 fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of  
110 Motor Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing  
111 and replacing such number plates, and forty-five dollars of such fee  
112 shall be deposited in an account to be used by Connecticut Support Our  
113 Troops, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this section. No  
114 additional fee shall be charged in connection with the renewal of such

115 number plates. No transfer fee shall be charged for the transfer of an  
116 existing registration to or from a registration with Support Our Troops!  
117 commemorative number plates. Such number plates shall have letters  
118 and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The  
119 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher fee for number  
120 plates [:(1) Which contain] that: (A) Contain the numbers and letters  
121 from a previously issued number plate; [(2) which] (B) contain letters in  
122 place of numbers, as authorized by section 14-49, in addition to the fee  
123 or fees prescribed for registration under said section; and [(3) which] (C)  
124 are low number plates, issued in accordance with section 14-160, in  
125 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section.  
126 All fees established and collected pursuant to this section, except the  
127 amount deposited in the account controlled by the Department of Motor  
128 Vehicles, shall be deposited in the "Support Our Troops!"  
129 commemorative account, established pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
130 section. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in  
131 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards and  
132 procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of Support Our  
133 Troops! commemorative number plates.

134 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
135 subsection, in the case of any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or  
136 member of the armed forces, as defined in said section, a fee of thirty  
137 dollars shall be charged for Support Our Troops! commemorative  
138 number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees prescribed for the  
139 registration of a motor vehicle. Seven dollars and fifty cents of such fee  
140 shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of Motor  
141 Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing and  
142 replacing such number plates, and twenty-two dollars and fifty cents of  
143 such fee shall be deposited in an account to be used by Connecticut  
144 Support Our Troops, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this  
145 section.

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

148 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations  
149 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish [(1)] (A)  
150 standards for the issuance of a special certificate of registration and  
151 special number plates to a member of an organization which qualifies  
152 for issuance, [(2)] (B) qualifications of organizations whose members  
153 wish to apply for such special registrations, [(3)] (C) procedures for  
154 application for such special registration, and [(4)] (D) a fee for such  
155 special number plates which shall cover at least the entire cost of making  
156 the plates and which shall be in addition to the fee for registration of the  
157 motor vehicle. The regulations shall provide that a labor union shall be  
158 a qualifying organization.

159 (2) In the case of any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or member  
160 of the armed forces, as defined in said section, who applies for any of  
161 the following special number plates and who is eligible to apply for such  
162 plate, the fee for such plate shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee  
163 established in any regulation adopted under subdivision (1) of this  
164 subsection for such plate and shall be in addition to the fee for  
165 registration of the motor vehicle: (A) Connecticut Army National Guard  
166 Aviation plate; (B) Disabled American Veterans plate; (C) First  
167 Company Governor's Foot Guard plate; (D) First Company Governor's  
168 Horse Guard plate; (E) Greater Hartford Chapter of the Eighty-Second  
169 Airborne plate; (F) Iwo Jima Survivor plate; (G) Korean War Veterans  
170 Association plate; (H) Laos Veterans of America plate; (I) Marine Corps  
171 League plate; (J) Military Order of the Purple Heart plate; (K) National  
172 Guard Association of Connecticut (active) plate; (L) National Guard  
173 Association of Connecticut (retired) plate; (M) Pearl Harbor 1941  
174 Survivor plate; (N) Second Company Governor's Foot Guard plate; and  
175 (O) United States Submarine Veterans plate.

176 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Board  
177 of Regents for Higher Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
178 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards for the issuance  
179 and renewal of collegiate special number plates with the logos or  
180 emblems of Connecticut public and independent institutions of higher  
181 education.

182 (c) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special  
183 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance with  
184 the regulations adopted under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this  
185 section provided the commissioner may not issue a set of special  
186 number plates bearing the same numerals as any other plate issued by  
187 the department. The commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any  
188 such special number plates issued for a qualified organization, or special  
189 plates issued in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-19b and  
190 14-21f to 14-21p, inclusive, at any time, upon written notice to the  
191 organization if, in the opinion of the commissioner, the demand for such  
192 plates is insufficient to support the costs of production.

193 Sec. 5. Section 14-36h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
194 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

195 (a) Each motor vehicle operator's license issued by the Commissioner  
196 of Motor Vehicles in accordance with section 14-36 and each identity  
197 card issued by said commissioner in accordance with section 1-1h shall  
198 contain the following: (1) The person's full legal name; (2) the person's  
199 date of birth; (3) the person's gender; (4) the person's height and eye  
200 color; (5) the person's assigned operator's license or identity card  
201 number; (6) the person's address of principal residence in this state; (7)  
202 the person's signature; (8) the person's photograph or digital image; and  
203 (9) if applicable, the person's status as a veteran, as provided in  
204 subsections (e) and (f) of this section.

205 (b) If any person does not reside in any state, territory or possession  
206 of the United States because such person is on active military duty with  
207 the United States Armed Forces, and such person's home state of record  
208 is Connecticut, as reflected in the records of the United States  
209 Department of Defense, United States Department of Homeland  
210 Security or any federal department under which the United States Coast  
211 Guard operates, such person may obtain a Connecticut operator's  
212 license or identity card, provided such person: (1) Does not have an  
213 operator's license or identity card issued by another state, territory or  
214 possession of the United States, or surrenders any such license or

215 identity card; (2) has a current APO or FPO mailing address; (3)  
216 designates such person's home address as 60 State Street, Wethersfield,  
217 CT 06161; and (4) meets all other requirements for obtaining an  
218 operator's license or identity card in this state.

219 (c) The commissioner shall provide that each such license or identity  
220 card document contains physical security features designed to prevent  
221 tampering, counterfeiting or duplication of the document.

222 (d) Each such document shall also contain one or more machine-  
223 readable technology feature or component, including, but not limited to,  
224 a bar code or magnetic strip.

225 (e) Any person who is a veteran may submit a request to the  
226 Department of Veterans Affairs to have [his or her] such person's status  
227 as a veteran contained on [his or her] such person's motor vehicle  
228 operator's license or identity card. Said department shall, not later than  
229 thirty days after receipt of such request, verify whether such person is a  
230 veteran and, if so verified, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
231 of such request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
232 shall indicate such person's status as a veteran on any motor vehicle  
233 operator's license or identity card issued to such person upon original  
234 issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license or identity card  
235 or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's license or  
236 identity card.

237 (f) (1) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special  
238 guerilla units, which units served in the United States secret war in the  
239 Kingdom of Laos during the Vietnam War, or any person who is an  
240 eligible former reservist, may submit a request to the Department of  
241 Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran, based on such person's service  
242 during the Vietnam War or in a reserve component of the armed forces,  
243 respectively, on [his or her] such person's motor vehicle operator's  
244 license or identity card. Said department shall, not later than thirty days  
245 after receipt of such request and the documents required under  
246 subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection, as applicable, verify whether



247 such person was such a member or is such an eligible former reservist,  
248 as applicable, and, if so verified, notify the Commissioner of Motor  
249 Vehicles of such request and verification. The Commissioner of Motor  
250 Vehicles shall indicate such person's status as a veteran on any motor  
251 vehicle operator's license or identity card issued to such person upon  
252 original issuance or renewal of a motor vehicle operator's license or  
253 identity card or upon issuance of a duplicate motor vehicle operator's  
254 license or identity card.

255 (2) Any such person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian  
256 special guerilla units shall submit to the Department of Veterans Affairs,  
257 in addition to the request under subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A)  
258 an affidavit stating (i) when such person served, (ii) where such person  
259 served, (iii) the unit in which such person served, and (iv) the capacity  
260 in which such person served; (B) any available corroborating witness  
261 affidavits; (C) any available official documentation of service; and (D)  
262 any other documents supporting such person's affidavit.

263 (3) (A) Any such person who is an eligible former reservist shall  
264 submit to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in addition to the request  
265 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, all available official  
266 documentation of such person's service in a reserve component of the  
267 armed forces and discharge or release therefrom.

268 (B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
269 subsection, neither the listing of a person as a veteran by the  
270 Commissioner of Veterans Affairs nor the indication of such person's  
271 status as a veteran on any motor vehicle operator's license or identity  
272 card by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall constitute proof of  
273 such person's eligibility for any other benefit available to veterans.

274 (g) As used in this section: (1) "Full legal name" means the most  
275 complete version of the name that appears on a person's certificate of  
276 birth, official passport or other document or documents accepted by the  
277 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to verify the person's identity, unless  
278 the person presents a marriage license or certificate, a certificate of civil

279 union, a divorce decree or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction  
280 pertaining to a permanent change of the person's name; [and] (2)  
281 "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103, or any  
282 former member of the armed forces who is entitled to retirement pay  
283 under 10 USC Chapter 1223, as amended from time to time, or, but for  
284 age, would be so entitled; (3) "eligible former reservist" means any  
285 person honorably discharged from, released under honorable  
286 conditions from or released with an other than honorable discharge  
287 based on a qualifying condition from, the United States Army Reserve,  
288 Army National Guard, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast  
289 Guard Reserve, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard; and (4)  
290 "armed forces" and "qualifying condition" have the same meanings as  
291 provided in section 27-103.

292 Sec. 6. Section 14-20c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
293 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

294 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any  
295 immediate family member, shall issue a special certificate of registration  
296 and a set of number plates memorializing residents of this state who  
297 were killed in action while performing active military duty with the  
298 armed forces, as defined in section 27-103. Such registration and number  
299 plates shall be available for any motor vehicle owned or leased for a  
300 period of at least one year. Such number plates shall expire and be  
301 renewed as provided in section 14-22. No fee shall be charged for such  
302 plates. Such plates shall bear the words "Gold Star Family", and the  
303 design of such plates shall be approved by a committee established by  
304 the commissioner. For the purposes of this section, "immediate family  
305 member" [includes] means a spouse, mother, father, brother, sister,  
306 child, grandmother or grandfather of a resident of this state who was  
307 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed  
308 forces, as defined in section 27-103."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-20b
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
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-36h
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-20c