HOUSE BILL NO. 125 am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, LeDoux, Spohnholz, Saddler, Tuck, Kawasaki, Millett, Gara, Josephson, Wool, Kopp, Guttenberg

SENATORS Wielechowski, Begich

Amended:  4/27/17
Introduced:  2/15/17

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to a veteran's designation on an identification card or a driver's license for Hmong veterans and Lao veterans; relating to special motor vehicle registration plates for recipients of the Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, and other awards reflecting valor; relating to special request specialty organization registration plates; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 18.65.310(l) is amended to read:

(1) At the request of the person, the department shall provide a veteran designation and United States flag replica on an identification card identifying the person as a retired veteran, [OR] a veteran of the armed forces of the United States discharged under honorable conditions, **or a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran who served in military operations in support of the United States in the Kingdom of**
Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975. The department may not charge a fee solely for the designation. To receive a veteran designation, the person shall provide proof of veteran status that shows the person is retired, was [OR] discharged under honorable conditions, or is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. The department shall consult with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to determine the proof necessary to show that a person is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. With the approval of the person, the department shall make available to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the name and address of a person receiving a veteran designation under this subsection. Notwithstanding (a) of this section, the department may charge a fee of $5 for replacement of a valid identification card with a new identification card with a veteran designation.

*Sec. 2.* AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(jj) Vehicles owned by recipients of a Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, shall issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received the Bronze Star Medal awarded for valor, Silver Star Medal, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the Bronze Star awarded for valor recipient plates, Silver Star recipient plates, Navy Cross recipient plates, Distinguished Service Cross recipient plates, Air Force Cross recipient plates, and Coast Guard Cross recipient plates.

(kk) Vehicles owned by recipients of awards reflecting valor issued by the armed forces of the United States. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a motor vehicle, may issue special registration plates for the motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received an award reflecting valor issued by the armed forces of the United States other than a Purple Heart, Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard Cross. The commissioner, after consulting with the person in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in charge of
veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the award recipient plates.

(II) Special request specialty organization plates. The department shall adopt regulations to allow for the issuance of special request specialty organization registration plates sponsored by an organization that is based in this state and is tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c), is an Alaska chapter of a national organization that is tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c), is a department of the state, or is a municipality of the state. The department shall determine a common design and color for the plates and provide for the placement of the artwork of the organization and a short piece of descriptive text on the plate. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates duplicate an existing registration. The regulations

(1) must provide that the entity requesting the issuance of the plates

(A) submit an application on a form provided by the department;

(B) pay an application fee set by the department for issuance of the new registration plates;

(C) submit registration fees for at least 50 motor vehicles before specialty registration plates will be issued;

(D) may not be offensive in purpose, nature, activity, or name;

(E) may charge a fee for issuance of a specialty registration plate in addition to any registration fees set by statute or regulation;

(2) must provide for a minimum number of registrations and renewals of the specialty plate and for cancellation of specialty plates that do not meet that minimum; the regulations must provide that before a specialty plate may be cancelled the entity sponsoring the plate be given notice at least six months before the proposed cancellation;

(3) must establish procedures for owners of vehicles to purchase specialty registration plates under this subsection.

* Sec. 3. AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is amended to read:

(2) special request plates for

(A) Alaska National Guard personnel ...................... $30;
(B) veterans, retired veterans, or Lao veterans .................. $30;
(C) recipients of the Purple Heart ..................................... none;
(D) recipients of the Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver
Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast
Guard Cross, or other award reflecting valor.......................... $30;
(E) owners of custom collector vehicles .......................... $50;
(F) Iditarod race finishers .......................................... $50;
(G) other special request plates ................................. $30;

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of special request plates;

* Sec. 4. AS 28.10.421(d) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:
(26) special request specialty organization plates under
AS 28.10.181(II)..........................................................$30

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the $30 fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance of and the replacement of the plates; in addition, an entity sponsoring a special request specialty organization plate may charge a fee on first issuance and renewal of the plates.

* Sec. 5. AS 28.15.111(c) is amended to read:
(c) At the request of an applicant, the department shall provide a veteran designation and United States flag replica on a license identifying the driver as a retired veteran, [OR] a veteran of the armed forces of the United States discharged under honorable conditions, or a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran who served in military operations in support of the United States in the Kingdom of Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975. The department may not charge a fee solely for the designation. To receive a veteran designation, the driver shall make available proof of veteran status that shows that the person is retired, was [OR] discharged under honorable conditions, or is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. The department shall consult with the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs to determine the proof necessary to show that a person is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. With the approval of the applicant, the department shall make available
to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the name and address of a driver receiving a veteran designation under this subsection. The department may charge a fee of $5 for replacement of a valid driver's license with a new license with a veteran designation. A replacement license with a veteran designation issued for $5 under this subsection shall retain the expiration date of the license it replaces.

* Sec. 6. Sections 2 - 4 of this Act take effect January 1, 2018.