

**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**

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

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

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

9 (l) At the request of the person, the department shall provide a veteran  
10 designation and United States flag replica on an identification card identifying the  
11 person as a retired veteran, [OR] a veteran of the armed forces of the United States  
12 discharged under honorable conditions, or a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran who  
13 served in military operations in support of the United States in the Kingdom of

1 **Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975.** The department may not  
 2 charge a fee solely for the designation. To receive a veteran designation, the person  
 3 shall provide proof of veteran status that shows the person is retired, **was** [OR]  
 4 discharged under honorable conditions, **or is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. The**  
 5 **department shall consult with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs**  
 6 **to determine the proof necessary to show that a person is a Hmong veteran or**  
 7 **Lao veteran.** With the approval of the person, the department shall make available to  
 8 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the name and address of a person  
 9 receiving a veteran designation under this subsection. Notwithstanding (a) of this  
 10 section, the department may charge a fee of \$5 for replacement of a valid  
 11 identification card with a new identification card with a veteran designation.

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

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

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

1 veterans' affairs, shall determine the design and color of the award recipient plates.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (2) special request plates for

31 (A) Alaska National Guard personnel ..... \$30;

- 1 (B) veterans, retired veterans, or Lao veterans ..... \$30;
- 2 (C) recipients of the Purple Heart ..... none;
- 3 (D) **recipients of the Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver**
- 4 **Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast**
- 5 **Guard Cross, or other award reflecting valor..... \$30;**
- 6 (E) owners of custom collector vehicles ..... \$50;
- 7 (F) [(E)] Iditarod race finishers ..... \$50;
- 8 (G) [(F)] other special request plates ..... \$30;

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

12 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 28.10.421(d) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

13 (26) special request specialty organization plates under  
 14 AS 28.10.181(l)..... \$30  
 15 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b), (c), (h), or (i) of this section; the \$30  
 16 fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance of and the  
 17 replacement of the plates; in addition, an entity sponsoring a special request specialty  
 18 organization plate may charge a fee on first issuance and renewal of the plates.

19 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 28.15.111(c) is amended to read:

20 (c) At the request of an applicant, the department shall provide a veteran  
 21 designation and United States flag replica on a license identifying the driver as a  
 22 retired veteran, [OR] a veteran of the armed forces of the United States discharged  
 23 under honorable conditions, **or a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran who served in**  
 24 **military operations in support of the United States in the Kingdom of Laos**  
 25 **between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975.** The department may not charge a  
 26 fee solely for the designation. To receive a veteran designation, the driver shall make  
 27 available proof of veteran status that shows that the person is retired, **was** [OR]  
 28 discharged under honorable conditions, **or is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. The**  
 29 **department shall consult with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs**  
 30 **to determine the proof necessary to show that a person is a Hmong veteran or**  
 31 **Lao veteran.** With the approval of the applicant, the department shall make available

1 to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the name and address of a driver  
2 receiving a veteran designation under this subsection. The department may charge a  
3 fee of \$5 for replacement of a valid driver's license with a new license with a veteran  
4 designation. A replacement license with a veteran designation issued for \$5 under this  
5 subsection shall retain the expiration date of the license it replaces.

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