

HOUSE CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 204(STA)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/18/18

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS EGAN, Wielechowski, Begich, Stevens, Costello, Bishop

REPRESENTATIVES Tuck, Kopp, Gara, LeDoux, Kawasaki, Josephson, Saddler

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 registration plates celebrating the**
3 **arts; and relating to special registration plates for vehicles owned by veterans with**
4 **disabilities."**

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

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

7 (*l*) At the request of the person, the department shall provide a veteran
8 designation and United States flag replica on an identification card identifying the
9 person as a retired veteran, [OR] a veteran of the armed forces of the United States
10 discharged under honorable conditions, or a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran who
11 served in military operations in support of the United States in the Kingdom of
12 Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975. The department may not
13 charge a fee solely for the designation. To receive a veteran designation, the person
14 shall provide proof of veteran status that shows the person is retired, was [OR]

1 discharged under honorable conditions, or is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. The
 2 department shall consult with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
 3 to determine the proof necessary to show that a person is a Hmong veteran or
 4 Lao veteran. With the approval of the person, the department shall make available to
 5 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the name and address of a person
 6 receiving a veteran designation under this subsection. Notwithstanding (a) of this
 7 section, the department may charge a fee of \$5 for replacement of a valid
 8 identification card with a new identification card with a veteran designation.

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.161(b) is amended to read:

10 (b) Every passenger vehicle registration plate, except as specifically provided
 11 in AS 28.10.181, shall have displayed on [UPON] it

12 (1) one of the following designs: [EITHER]

13 (A) the Alaska flag design, consisting of the Alaska flag, the
 14 traditional colors of yellow-gold and blue, and the slogan "The Last Frontier";
 15 [OR]

16 (B) the bear design, consisting of a standing grizzly bear in the
 17 center of the plate; the bear design shall be modeled after the 1976 bicentennial
 18 plate without the bicentennial symbol; or

19 (C) the design celebrating the arts chosen by the
 20 commissioner through consultation with the Alaska State Council on the
 21 Arts; the commissioner shall choose a new design for the plates
 22 celebrating the arts every four years and discontinue issuance of the
 23 previous design;

24 (2) the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is
 25 issued;

26 (3) the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; and

27 (4) the registration year number or expiration date for which time it is
 28 validated; the registration year number or expiration date may be part of the license
 29 plate or contained on a suitable sticker or tab device issued by the department;
 30 however, only one sticker or tab device may be issued for each pair of plates, and the
 31 sticker or tab device must be affixed to the rear plate.

1 * **Sec. 3.** AS 28.10.181(d) is amended to read:

2 (d) Vehicles owned by veterans with disabilities, including persons disabled in
 3 the line of duty while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard, or other persons with
 4 disabilities. Upon the request of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the
 5 ability to walk, as defined in 23 C.F.R. 1235.2, the department shall (1) register one
 6 motor vehicle in the name of the person without charge; and (2) issue a specially
 7 designed registration plate that displays (A) recognition of the disabled veteran if the
 8 applicant's disability originated from the applicant's service with the Alaska Territorial
 9 Guard or the armed forces of the United States; (B) the international symbol of
 10 accessibility (the wheelchair logo); and (C) if the applicant is a veteran, the Alaska and
 11 United States flags and red, white, and blue colors. A person who is not otherwise
 12 qualified under this subsection, but who meets the qualifications of a disabled veteran
 13 under AS 29.45.030(i), may register one motor vehicle without charge, and the
 14 department shall issue a specially designed registration plate that displays recognition
 15 of the disabled veteran that does not display the international symbol of accessibility
 16 and does not carry with it special parking privileges. A disabled veteran who
 17 otherwise qualifies for a registration plate under this subsection may elect to receive a
 18 plate under (p) or (q) of this section for which the person is otherwise qualified that
 19 does not display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it
 20 special parking privileges. A disabled person who otherwise qualifies for a registration
 21 plate under (2)(B) of this subsection may elect to receive a plate under another
 22 provision of this section for which the person is otherwise qualified that does not
 23 display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it special
 24 parking privileges. For purposes of this subsection, proof of disability may be
 25 provided by a person licensed as a **chiropractor under AS 08.20, as a** physician or
 26 physician assistant under AS 08.64, or as an advanced practice registered nurse under
 27 AS 08.68.

28 * **Sec. 4.** AS 28.15.111(c) is amended to read:

29 (c) At the request of an applicant, the department shall provide a veteran
 30 designation and United States flag replica on a license identifying the driver as a
 31 retired veteran, [OR] a veteran of the armed forces of the United States discharged

1 under honorable conditions, or a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran who served in
 2 military operations in support of the United States in the Kingdom of Laos
 3 between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975. The department may not charge a
 4 fee solely for the designation. To receive a veteran designation, the driver shall make
 5 available proof of veteran status that shows that the person is retired, was [OR]
 6 discharged under honorable conditions, or is a Hmong veteran or Lao veteran. The
 7 department shall consult with the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
 8 to determine the proof necessary to show that a person is a Hmong veteran or
 9 Lao veteran. With the approval of the applicant, the department shall make available
 10 to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the name and address of a driver
 11 receiving a veteran designation under this subsection. The department may charge a
 12 fee of \$5 for replacement of a valid driver's license with a new license with a veteran
 13 designation. A replacement license with a veteran designation issued for \$5 under this
 14 subsection shall retain the expiration date of the license it replaces.

15 * **Sec. 5.** AS 44.27.080(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) The council shall hold a competition every four years to select a design for
 17 the vehicle registration [SPECIAL REQUEST] plate celebrating the arts under
 18 AS 28.10.161(b)(1)(C) [AS 28.10.181(u)]. The council shall select a panel of judges
 19 to judge the submissions for the contest and shall include the previous design winner
 20 on the panel. The panel shall select the top submissions, and the council shall conduct
 21 a public vote to determine the winner of the competition. The council shall use the
 22 winning design when consulting with the commissioner of administration under
 23 AS 28.10.161(b)(1)(C) [AS 28.10.181(u)].

24 * **Sec. 6.** AS 28.10.181(u), 28.10.421(d)(15), and AS 44.27.080(b) are repealed.