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

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amended: 5/9/18

Offered: 4/18/18

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

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

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; relating to special motor vehicle registration plates for recipients of the Bronze**
4 **Star awarded for valor, Silver Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force**
5 **Cross, Coast Guard Cross, and other awards reflecting valor; relating to special**
6 **registration plates for vehicles owned by veterans with disabilities; and providing for an**
7 **effective date."**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (B) the bear design, consisting of a standing grizzly bear in the
 21 center of the plate; the bear design shall be modeled after the 1976 bicentennial
 22 plate without the bicentennial symbol; **or**

23 **(C) the design celebrating the arts chosen by the**
 24 **commissioner through consultation with the Alaska State Council on the**
 25 **Arts; the commissioner shall choose a new design for the plates**
 26 **celebrating the arts every four years and discontinue issuance of the**
 27 **previous design;**

28 (2) the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is
 29 issued;

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

31 (4) the registration year number or expiration date for which time it is

1 validated; the registration year number or expiration date may be part of the license
2 plate or contained on a suitable sticker or tab device issued by the department;
3 however, only one sticker or tab device may be issued for each pair of plates, and the
4 sticker or tab device must be affixed to the rear plate.

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

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

1 * **Sec. 4.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

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

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

22 * **Sec. 5.** AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is amended to read:

23 (2) special request plates for

24 (A) Alaska National Guard personnel \$30;

25 (B) veterans, retired veterans, or Lao veterans \$30;

26 (C) recipients of the Purple Heart none;

27 (D) **recipients of the Bronze Star awarded for valor, Silver**
28 **Star, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast**
29 **Guard Cross, or other award reflecting valor..... \$30;**

30 (E) owners of custom collector vehicles \$50;

31 (F) [(E)] Iditarod race finishers \$50;

1 **(G)** [(F)] other special request plates \$30;
 2 plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this
 3 paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of
 4 special request plates;

5 * **Sec. 6.** AS 28.15.111(c) is amended to read:

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

23 * **Sec. 7.** AS 44.27.080(a) is amended to read:

24 (a) The council shall hold a competition every four years to select a design for
 25 the **vehicle registration** [SPECIAL REQUEST] plate celebrating the arts under
 26 **AS 28.10.161(b)(1)(C)** [AS 28.10.181(u)]. The council shall select a panel of judges
 27 to judge the submissions for the contest and shall include the previous design winner
 28 on the panel. The panel shall select the top submissions, and the council shall conduct
 29 a public vote to determine the winner of the competition. The council shall use the
 30 winning design when consulting with the commissioner of administration under
 31 **AS 28.10.161(b)(1)(C)** [AS 28.10.181(u)].

- 1 * **Sec. 8.** AS 28.10.181(u), 28.10.421(d)(15), and AS 44.27.080(b) are repealed.
- 2 * **Sec. 9.** Sections 4 and 5 of this Act take effect January 1, 2019.