

Chapter 1142

H.B. No. 377

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the issuance of certain specialty license plates,
3 specially marked driver's licenses, and specially marked personal
4 identification certificates.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 504.302, Transportation Code, is amended
7 by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as
8 follows:

9 (a-1) The surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible
10 for a specialty license plate under Section 504.308, 504.310,
11 504.315, 504.316, or 504.319 is entitled to register one vehicle
12 under the applicable section as long as the spouse remains
13 unmarried.

14 (b) An applicant [~~for registration~~] under this section must
15 submit proof of the eligibility of the applicant's deceased spouse
16 for the applicable specialty license plate.

17 SECTION 2. Section 504.308, Transportation Code, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 504.308. DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS MEDAL RECIPIENTS.
20 [~~(a)~~] The department shall issue specialty license plates for
21 persons who have received the Distinguished Flying Cross medal and
22 Distinguished Flying Cross medal with Valor. The license plates
23 must bear a depiction of the Distinguished Flying Cross medal and
24 the words "Distinguished Flying Cross" at the bottom of each

1 license plate. License plates issued under this section to
2 recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross medal with Valor that
3 are not personalized must also include the letter "V" as a prefix or
4 suffix to the numerals on each plate.

5 SECTION 3. Section 504.317, Transportation Code, is amended
6 by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

7 (b-1) A person is eligible to receive specialty license
8 plates under this section if the person is the surviving spouse of a
9 person who had been entitled to specialty plates for veterans with
10 disabilities under Section 504.202, regardless of whether the
11 deceased spouse was issued plates under that section.

12 SECTION 4. Section 521.011, Transportation Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 521.011. SERVICES INFORMATION FOR VETERANS. The
15 department and the Texas Veterans Commission shall jointly develop
16 a one-page informational paper about veterans services provided by
17 this state for veterans who receive:

18 (1) a driver's license with a designation under
19 Section 521.1235; or

20 (2) a personal identification certificate with a
21 [veteran's] designation under Section 521.102 [a one-page
22 informational paper about veterans services provided by this
23 state].

24 SECTION 5. Section 521.101(1), Transportation Code, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (1) The application for the personal identification
27 certificate must provide space for the applicant:

1 (1) to voluntarily list any information [~~military~~
2 ~~service~~] that may qualify the applicant to receive a personal
3 identification certificate with a [~~veteran's~~] designation under
4 Section 521.102; and

5 (2) to include proof required by the department to
6 determine the applicant's eligibility to receive that designation.

7 SECTION 6. Section 521.102, Transportation Code, is amended
8 by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1),
9 (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

10 (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Disability rating" has the meaning assigned by
12 Section 11.22, Tax Code.

13 (2) "Disabled veteran" and[7] "veteran" have the
14 meanings assigned by Section 521.1235 [~~means a person who:~~

15 [~~(1) has served in:~~

16 [~~(A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or~~
17 ~~marine corps of the United States, or~~

18 [~~(B) the Texas National Guard as defined by~~
19 ~~Section 431.001, Government Code, and~~

20 [~~(2) has been honorably discharged from the branch of~~
21 ~~the service in which the person served].~~

22 (b-1) If a disabled veteran provides proof sufficient to the
23 department, the department, on request of the disabled veteran,
24 shall include on a personal identification certificate issued to
25 the disabled veteran in any available space on the face of the
26 personal identification certificate or on the reverse side of the
27 personal identification certificate:

1 (1) a disabled veteran designation; and
2 (2) the branch of the service in which the disabled
3 veteran served.

4 (c) The department shall provide to the recipient of a
5 personal identification certificate with a [~~veteran's~~] designation
6 under this section the informational paper described by Section
7 521.011 at the time the certificate is issued.

8 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by
9 Subsection (e), for purposes of obtaining a service or benefit
10 available for disabled veterans in this state, a disabled veteran
11 may use a personal identification certificate described by
12 Subsection (b-1) as satisfactory proof:

13 (1) that the disabled veteran has a disability rating
14 described by Section 521.1235(a)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable; and

15 (2) of branch of service and honorable discharge.

16 (e) A personal identification certificate described by
17 Subsection (b-1) is not satisfactory proof of the disabled
18 veteran's disability rating for purposes of obtaining a property
19 tax exemption provided by Chapter 11, Tax Code.

20 (f) A disabled veteran who renews a personal identification
21 certificate described by Subsection (b-1) shall provide proof
22 sufficient to the department of the disabled veteran's disability
23 rating.

24 SECTION 7. Section 521.1235, Transportation Code, is
25 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections
26 (b-1), (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

27 (a) In this section:

1 (1) "Disability rating" has the meaning assigned by
2 Section 11.22, Tax Code.

3 (2) "Disabled veteran" means a veteran who has
4 suffered a service-connected disability with a disability rating
5 of:

6 (A) at least 50 percent; or

7 (B) 40 percent if the rating is due to the
8 amputation of a lower extremity.

9 (3) "Veteran" [~~,"veteran"~~] means a person who:

10 (A) [~~(1)~~] has served in:

11 (i) [~~(A)~~] the army, navy, air force, coast
12 guard, or marine corps of the United States; or

13 (ii) [~~(B)~~] the Texas National Guard as
14 defined by Section 437.001, Government Code; and

15 (B) [~~(2)~~] has been honorably discharged from the
16 branch of the service in which the person served.

17 (b-1) If a disabled veteran provides proof sufficient to the
18 department, the department, on request of the disabled veteran,
19 shall include on a driver's license issued to the disabled veteran
20 in any available space on the face of the driver's license or on the
21 reverse side of the driver's license:

22 (1) a disabled veteran designation; and

23 (2) the branch of the service in which the disabled
24 veteran served.

25 (c) The department shall provide to the recipient of a
26 driver's license with a [~~veteran's~~] designation under this section
27 the informational paper described by Section 521.011 at the time

1 the license is issued.

2 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by
3 Subsection (e), for purposes of obtaining a service or benefit
4 available for disabled veterans in this state, a disabled veteran
5 may use a driver's license described by Subsection (b-1) as
6 satisfactory proof:

7 (1) that the disabled veteran has a disability rating
8 described by Subsection (a)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable; and

9 (2) of branch of service and honorable discharge.

10 (e) A driver's license described by Subsection (b-1) is not
11 satisfactory proof of the disabled veteran's disability rating for
12 purposes of obtaining a property tax exemption provided by Chapter
13 11, Tax Code.

14 (f) A disabled veteran who renews a driver's license
15 described by Subsection (b-1) shall provide proof sufficient to the
16 department of the disabled veteran's disability rating.

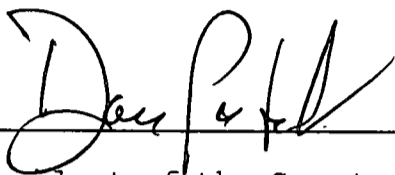
17 SECTION 8. Section 521.142(i), Transportation Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (i) The application must provide space for the applicant:

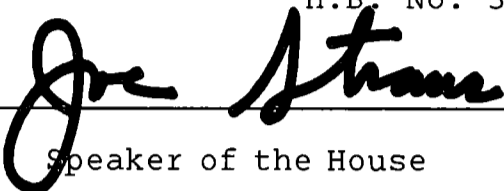
20 (1) to voluntarily list any information [~~military~~
21 ~~service~~] that may qualify the applicant to receive a license with a
22 [~~veteran's~~] designation under Section 521.1235; and

23 (2) to include proof required by the department to
24 determine the applicant's eligibility to receive that designation.

25 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.




President of the Senate

H.B. No. 377



Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 377 was passed by the House on March 29, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 377 on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.



Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 377 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.



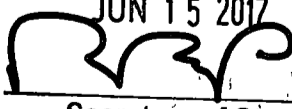
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 6-14-2017
Date



Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
3 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 15 2017


Secretary of State

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 25, 2017

TO: Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB377 by Oliverson (Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates to surviving spouses of certain military veterans.), **As Passed 2nd House**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 504 of the Transportation Code to authorize the surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible for a Distinguished Flying Cross specialty license plate, World War II Veteran specialty license plate, Military Specialty License Plate for Extraordinary Service, Legion of Merit Medal Recipient specialty license plate, or a Defense Superior Service Medal Recipient specialty license plate to register one vehicle with that specialty license plate as long as the spouse remains unmarried.

Under current law, one set of specialty license plates for the Distinguished Flying Cross, Extraordinary Service, and the Defense Superior Service Medal may be issued without payment of the vehicle registration fees required in Chapter 502 of the Transportation Code. The bill would allow the surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible for a set of any of these plates to register one vehicle with the specialty plate without payment of the registration fee. Based on the information and analysis provided by the DMV, it is assumed implementation of the bill would not result in a significant impact to state and local revenue collections from vehicle registration fees.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 608 Department of Motor Vehicles

LBB Staff: UP, SLE, LBO, EH, TG

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 29, 2017

TO: Honorable Donna Campbell, Chair, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border Security

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB377 by Oliverson (Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates to surviving spouses of certain military veterans.), **As Engrossed**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 504 of the Transportation Code to authorize the surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible for a Distinguished Flying Cross specialty license plate, World War II Veteran specialty license plate, Military Specialty License Plate for Extraordinary Service, Legion of Merit Medal Recipient specialty license plate, or a Defense Superior Service Medal Recipient specialty license plate to register one vehicle with that specialty license plate as long as the spouse remains unmarried.

Under current law, one set of specialty license plates for the Distinguished Flying Cross, Extraordinary Service, and the Defense Superior Service Medal may be issued without payment of the vehicle registration fees required in Chapter 502 of the Transportation Code. The bill would allow the surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible for a set of any of these plates to register one vehicle with the specialty plate without payment of the registration fee. Based on the information and analysis provided by the DMV, it is assumed implementation of the bill would not result in a significant impact to state and local revenue collections from vehicle registration fees.

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No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 608 Department of Motor Vehicles

LBB Staff: UP, LBO, EH, TG

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 14, 2017

TO: Honorable Roland Gutierrez, Chair, House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB377 by Oliverson (Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates to surviving spouses of certain military veterans.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 504 of the Transportation Code to authorize the surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible for a Distinguished Flying Cross specialty license plate, World War II Veteran specialty license plate, Military Specialty License Plate for Extraordinary Service, Legion of Merit Medal Recipient specialty license plate, or a Defense Superior Service Medal Recipient specialty license plate to register one vehicle with that specialty license plate as long as the spouse remains unmarried.

Under current law, one set of specialty license plates for the Distinguished Flying Cross, Extraordinary Service, and the Defense Superior Service Medal may be issued without payment of the vehicle registration fees required in Chapter 502 of the Transportation Code. The bill would allow the surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible for a set of any of these plates to register one vehicle with the specialty plate without payment of the registration fee. Based on the information and analysis provided by the DMV, it is assumed implementation of the bill would not result in a significant impact to state and local revenue collections from vehicle registration fees.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

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