

# Veterans' Affairs Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6481

AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL REGISTRATION MARKER PLATES FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED IN

**Title:** PERIODS OF WAR.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Transportation

**PH Date:** 2/23/2021

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Rep. Dorinda Borer, 115th Dist

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill was raised in order to allow veterans who have served in a period of war and received a combat service ribbon and medal to have special registration marker plates for their vehicles. These plates allow veterans to proudly display their service and for others to be able to readily identify them as a veteran by their license plate.

\*\*\*Proposed Substitute Language: In line 5, the words "38 USC 101" were replaced with "section 27-103 of the general statutes" because section 27-103 of the general statutes recognizes several conflicts distinct from federal law for the purpose of determining eligibility based on service in time of war. In line 24, the word "such" was replaced with "a specific" because in order to be eligible the conflict must have taken place during a specific time frame.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

[Commissioner Thomas Saadi, Department of Veterans Affairs](#): Commissioner Saadi testified at the public hearing, as well as submitting written testimony. He stated that the license plates required by this legislation would be in addition to the current Connecticut Veterans marker plates and twelve other specialized Veteran's vehicle marker plates. He suggested substitute language, as the reference to 38 U.S.C. 101 does not cover multiple distinct periods of wartime. Commission Saadi stated that the DVA could serve as the certifier of eligibility for non-organization issued Veteran marker plates in addition to the Veterans designation on

driver's licenses and ID cards, as long as DVA staff could access necessary DMV internal portals to input the eligibility determination, placing no additional paperwork burden on staff.

[Commissioner Sibongile Magubane, Department of Motor Vehicles](#): Commissioner Magubane submitted written testimony stating that the DMV currently offers a Veteran Flag plate to active-duty service members, honorably discharged veterans, and surviving spouses. In addition, other military and veteran plates are issued in coordination with sponsoring organizations (i.e., Gold Star Family, Iwo Jima). Commissioner Magubane stated that she is concerned that this bill could result in multiple designs and configurations, leading to costly system changes due to the challenging logistics of design and administration.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Rep. Dorinda Borer, 115<sup>th</sup> Dist](#): Representative Borer submitted written testimony in support of this legislation, which she had introduced in the previous legislative session. She added that prior to supporting this legislation she discussed the process of veterans acquiring a license plate with the DMV, DOC, and Veterans' organizations so that the process would be smooth for veterans who request these license plates and they would be able to proudly display their service on their vehicle.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**Reported by: Edward Jacome, Assistant Clerk      Date: 03/22/21**