



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Committee Bill No. 5048**

LCO No. 4806



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEES FOR VETERANS' SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-20b of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any veteran  
5 or member of the armed forces or the surviving spouse of such veteran  
6 or member, shall register any motor vehicle owned or leased for a period  
7 of at least one year by such person and shall issue a special certificate of  
8 registration and a set of number plates for each such motor vehicle,  
9 including a special certificate of registration and a set of number plates  
10 for any motor vehicle used exclusively for farming purposes by any  
11 such veteran or member of the armed forces, or the surviving spouse of  
12 such veteran or member, who is engaged in agricultural production as  
13 a trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided  
14 in section 14-22. The commissioner shall not charge a fee for such plates,  
15 [ , which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such plates and shall

16 be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle.] The  
17 commissioner shall charge a fee of fifteen dollars to replace such plates  
18 that become mutilated or illegible. As used in this subsection, "veteran"  
19 and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in section 27-  
20 103.

21 (b) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, at the request of any  
22 person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units,  
23 which units served in the United States secret war in the Kingdom of  
24 Laos during the Vietnam War, or the surviving spouse of such person,  
25 and after verification from the Department of Veterans Affairs as  
26 provided under subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall register any  
27 motor vehicle owned or leased for a period of at least one year by such  
28 person and shall issue a special certificate of registration and a set of  
29 number plates for each such motor vehicle, including a special certificate  
30 of registration and a set of number plates for any motor vehicle used  
31 exclusively for farming purposes by any such person, or the surviving  
32 spouse of such person, who is engaged in agricultural production as a  
33 trade or business. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided  
34 in section 14-22. The commissioner shall not charge a fee for such plates,  
35 [ which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such plates and shall  
36 be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor vehicle.]

37 (2) Any person who was a member of the Hmong Laotian special  
38 guerilla units, or the surviving spouse of such person, may submit a  
39 request to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be listed as a veteran,  
40 based on such service, for the purpose of obtaining a special certificate  
41 of registration and a set of number plates under subdivision (1) of this  
42 subsection. Such person, or the surviving spouse of such person, shall  
43 provide to said department (A) an affidavit stating (i) when such person  
44 served, (ii) where such person served, (iii) the unit in which such person  
45 served, and (iv) the capacity in which such person served; (B) any  
46 available corroborating witness affidavits; (C) any available official  
47 documentation of service; and (D) any other documents supporting  
48 such person's or such surviving spouse's affidavit. Said department

49 shall, not later than thirty days after receipt of such request, verify  
50 whether such person was a member of the Hmong Laotian special  
51 guerilla units and, if so, notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of  
52 such request and verification.

53 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-20d of the general statutes is  
54 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
55 *1, 2023*):

56 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, at the request of any  
57 veteran or member of the armed forces who received a campaign medal,  
58 issue special registration number plates to indicate service during a  
59 period of war. Such plates shall bear the words "(Name of War) Veteran"  
60 and shall be designed in consultation with the Commissioner of  
61 Veterans Affairs. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in  
62 section 14-22. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall not charge a  
63 fee for such plates. [ , which fee shall cover the entire cost of making such  
64 plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor  
65 vehicle.] No use shall be made of such plates except as official  
66 registration number plates.

67 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-21u of the general statutes is  
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
69 *1, 2023*):

70 (b) [A] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a  
71 fee of sixty dollars shall be charged for Support Our Troops!  
72 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees  
73 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of such  
74 fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of  
75 Motor Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing  
76 and replacing such number plates, and forty-five dollars of such fee  
77 shall be deposited in an account to be used by Connecticut Support Our  
78 Troops, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this section. No  
79 additional fee shall be charged in connection with the renewal of such  
80 number plates. No transfer fee shall be charged for the transfer of an

81 existing registration to or from a registration with Support Our Troops!  
82 commemorative number plates. Such number plates shall have letters  
83 and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The  
84 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher fee for number  
85 plates that: [(1) Which contain] (A) Contain the numbers and letters  
86 from a previously issued number plate; [(2) which] (B) contain letters in  
87 place of numbers, as authorized by section 14-49, in addition to the fee  
88 or fees prescribed for registration under said section; and [(3) which] (C)  
89 are low number plates, issued in accordance with section 14-160, in  
90 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section.  
91 All fees established and collected pursuant to this section, except the  
92 amount deposited in the account controlled by the Department of Motor  
93 Vehicles, shall be deposited in the "Support Our Troops!"  
94 commemorative account, established pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
95 section. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in  
96 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards and  
97 procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of Support Our  
98 Troops! commemorative number plates.

99 (2) In the case of any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or member  
100 of the armed forces, as defined in said section, the commissioner shall  
101 not charge a fee for a Support Our Troops! commemorative number  
102 plate.

103 Sec. 4. Section 14-19a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
104 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

105 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations in  
106 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish (1) standards  
107 for the issuance of a special certificate of registration and special number  
108 plates to a member of an organization which qualifies for issuance, (2)  
109 qualifications of organizations whose members wish to apply for such  
110 special registrations, (3) procedures for application for such special  
111 registration, and (4) a fee for such special number plates which shall  
112 cover at least the entire cost of making the plates and which shall be in

113 addition to the fee for registration of the motor vehicle. The regulations  
114 shall provide that a labor union shall be a qualifying organization.

115 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Board  
116 of Regents for Higher Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
117 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards for the issuance  
118 and renewal of collegiate special number plates with the logos or  
119 emblems of Connecticut public and independent institutions of higher  
120 education.

121 (c) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special  
122 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance with  
123 the regulations adopted under subsection (a) of this section provided  
124 the commissioner may not issue a set of special number plates bearing  
125 the same numerals as any other plate issued by the department. The  
126 commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any such special number  
127 plates issued for a qualified organization, or special plates issued in  
128 accordance with the provisions of sections 14-19b and 14-21f to 14-21p,  
129 inclusive, at any time, upon written notice to the organization if, in the  
130 opinion of the commissioner, the demand for such plates is insufficient  
131 to support the costs of production.

132 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (4) of subsection  
133 (a) of this section and any regulation adopted thereunder, in the case of  
134 any veteran, as defined in section 27-103, or member of the armed forces,  
135 as defined in said section, who applies for any special number plate  
136 described in subdivisions (1) to (15), inclusive, of this subsection and  
137 who is eligible to apply for such plate, the commissioner shall not charge  
138 a fee for the following: (1) Connecticut Army National Guard Aviation  
139 plate; (2) Disabled American Veterans plate; (3) First Company  
140 Governor's Foot Guard plate; (4) First Company Governor's Horse  
141 Guard plate; (5) Greater Hartford Chapter of the Eighty-Second  
142 Airborne plate; (6) Iwo Jima Survivor plate; (7) Korean War Veterans  
143 Association plate; (8) Laos Veterans of America plate; (9) Marine Corps  
144 League plate; (10) Military Order of the Purple Heart plate; (11) National

145 Guard Association of Connecticut (active) plate; (12) National Guard  
146 Association of Connecticut (retired) plate; (13) Pearl Harbor 1941  
147 Survivor plate; (14) Second Company Governor's Foot Guard plate; and  
148 (15) United States Submarine Veterans plate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-20b(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-20d(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-21u(b)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-19a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide certain veterans' specialty license plates to veterans for no cost.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors:    REP. ZAWISTOWSKI, 61st Dist.; REP. LANOUE, 45th Dist.  
                          REP. ZUPKUS, 89th Dist.; REP. ACKERT, 8th Dist.

H.B. 5048, 5144, 6002