



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5287

LCO No. 1761



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2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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, 2024*):

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 charge a fee for such plates,

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

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 charge a fee for such plates,
35 which fee shall cover fifty per cent of the [entire] cost of making such
36 plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of such motor
37 vehicle.

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

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

54 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 14-20d of the general statutes is
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
56 *1, 2024*):

57 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, at the request of any
58 veteran or member of the armed forces who received a campaign medal,
59 issue special registration number plates to indicate service during a
60 period of war. Such plates shall bear the words "(Name of War) Veteran"
61 and shall be designed in consultation with the Commissioner of
62 Veterans Affairs. The plates shall expire and be renewed as provided in
63 section 14-22. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall charge a fee for
64 such plates, which fee shall cover fifty per cent of the [entire] cost of
65 making such plates and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of
66 such motor vehicle. No use shall be made of such plates except as official
67 registration number plates.

68 Sec. 3. Section 14-21u of the general statutes is repealed and the
69 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

70 (a) On and after January 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
71 shall issue Support Our Troops! commemorative number plates to
72 express support for our troops. Such plates shall bear the words
73 "Support Our Troops!" and the image adopted by the national
74 association, Support Our Troops, Inc. No use shall be made of such
75 plates, except as official registration marker plates.

76 (b) A fee of sixty dollars shall be charged for Support Our Troops!
77 commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees
78 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle, except that in the case
79 of any veteran or member of the armed forces, as those terms are defined
80 in section 27-103, the fee charged for such number plates shall be thirty

81 dollars.

82 (1) Fifteen dollars of such fee collected from any person other than a
83 veteran or member of the armed forces, and seven dollars and fifty cents
84 of such fee collected from any veteran or member of the armed forces,
85 shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of Motor
86 Vehicles to be used for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing and
87 replacing such number plates. [, and forty-five dollars of such fee shall
88 be deposited in an account to be used by Connecticut Support Our
89 Troops, Inc. for the purposes of subsection (c) of this section.] No
90 additional fee shall be charged in connection with the renewal of such
91 number plates. No transfer fee shall be charged for the transfer of an
92 existing registration to or from a registration with Support Our Troops!
93 commemorative number plates. Such number plates shall have letters
94 and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

95 (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher fee
96 for number plates [:(1) Which contain] that: (A) Contain the numbers
97 and letters from a previously issued number plate; [(2) which] (B)
98 contain letters in place of numbers, as authorized by section 14-49, in
99 addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration under said section;
100 and [(3) which] (C) are low number plates, issued in accordance with
101 section 14-160, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed for registration
102 under said section.

103 (3) All fees established and collected pursuant to this section, except
104 the amount deposited in the account controlled by the Department of
105 Motor Vehicles, shall be deposited in the ["Support Our Troops!"
106 commemorative] account [,] established pursuant to subsection (c) of
107 this section. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt
108 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish
109 standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of
110 Support Our Troops! commemorative number plates.

111 (c) There is established the "Support Our Troops!" commemorative
112 account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the

113 General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to
114 be deposited in the account. The funds in said account shall be used by
115 Connecticut Support Our Troops, Inc. for programs to assist troops,
116 families of troops, and veterans. Connecticut Support Our Troops, Inc.
117 may receive private donations to said account and any such donations
118 shall be deposited in said account.

119 (d) The funds in the account shall be distributed quarterly by the
120 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to Connecticut
121 Support Our Troops, Inc.

122 Sec. 4. Section 14-19a of the general statutes is repealed and the
123 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

124 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations
125 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish [(1)] (A)
126 standards for the issuance of a special certificate of registration and
127 special number plates to a member of an organization which qualifies
128 for issuance, [(2)] (B) qualifications of organizations whose members
129 wish to apply for such special registrations, [(3)] (C) procedures for
130 application for such special registration, and [(4)] (D) a fee for such
131 special number plates which shall cover at least the entire cost of making
132 the plates and which shall be in addition to the fee for registration of the
133 motor vehicle. The regulations shall provide that a labor union shall be
134 a qualifying organization.

135 (2) In the case of any veteran or member of the armed forces, as those
136 terms are defined in section 27-103, who applies for any of the following
137 special number plates and who is eligible to apply for such plate, the fee
138 for such plate shall be equal to fifty per cent of the fee established in any
139 regulation adopted under subdivision (1) of this subsection for such
140 plate and shall be in addition to the fee for registration of the motor
141 vehicle: (A) Connecticut Army National Guard Aviation plate; (B)
142 Disabled American Veterans plate; (C) First Company Governor's Foot
143 Guard plate; (D) First Company Governor's Horse Guard plate; (E)
144 Greater Hartford Chapter of the Eighty-Second Airborne plate; (F) Iwo

145 Jima Survivor plate; (G) Korean War Veterans Association plate; (H)
146 Laos Veterans of America plate; (I) Marine Corps League plate; (J)
147 Military Order of the Purple Heart plate; (K) National Guard
148 Association of Connecticut (active) plate; (L) National Guard
149 Association of Connecticut (retired) plate; (M) Pearl Harbor 1941
150 Survivor plate; (N) Second Company Governor's Foot Guard plate; and
151 (O) United States Submarine Veterans plate.

152 (b) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Board
153 of Regents for Higher Education, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
154 with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish standards for the issuance
155 and renewal of collegiate special number plates with the logos or
156 emblems of Connecticut public and independent institutions of higher
157 education.

158 (c) On or after July 1, 2004, the commissioner may issue special
159 certificates of registration and special number plates in accordance with
160 the regulations adopted under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this
161 section provided the commissioner may not issue a set of special
162 number plates bearing the same numerals as any other plate issued by
163 the department. The commissioner may discontinue the issuance of any
164 such special number plates issued for a qualified organization, or special
165 plates issued in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-19b and
166 14-21f to 14-21p, inclusive, at any time, upon written notice to the
167 organization if, in the opinion of the commissioner, the demand for such
168 plates is insufficient to support the costs of production.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-20b(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-20d(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-21u
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-19a

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce by fifty per cent the fees paid by veterans or armed forces members for (1) the production costs of certain veterans' license plates,

(2) Support Our Troops! license plates, and (3) certain administratively-created veterans and military organization license plates.

[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.]