

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 574

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 49-403B, IDAHO CODE,  
2 TO REMOVE A DEFINITION, TO REVISE A DEFINITION, TO REVISE A PROVISION  
3 REGARDING A CERTAIN FEE, AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AND DECLAR-  
4 ING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Section 49-403B, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 49-403B. GOLD STAR -- LICENSE PLATES. (1) In this section:

10 (a) ~~"Combat zone" means those locations involving a "period of war" as~~  
11 ~~defined in 38 U.S.C. section 101(11) and such other locations and times~~  
12 ~~as the division of veterans services may define by rule.~~

13 ~~(b) "Qualifying cause of death" means a death of a person due to hostile~~  
14 ~~action while:~~

15 (i) While serving in the armed forces of the United States on ac-  
16 tive duty in a combat zone as the division of veterans services may  
17 define by rule; or

18 (ii) Who is a recipient of a gold star lapel pin.

19 ~~(eb) "Qualifying family member" means the surviving spouse, parent,~~  
20 ~~stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, half-sibling, stepsibling,~~  
21 ~~grandparent or legal guardian of a person who died due to a qualifying~~  
22 ~~cause of death.~~

23 (2) Qualifying family members are eligible to apply for gold star li-  
24 cense plates. As proof of eligibility, the applicant shall furnish to the  
25 department a statement from the division of veterans services certifying el-  
26 igibility.

27 (3) The division of veterans services shall establish by rule the re-  
28 quirements for receipt of a certificate of eligibility including proof of  
29 qualifying familial relationship to the deceased service member and the  
30 death of the service member due to a qualifying cause of death.

31 (4) No special plate program fee shall be charged in addition to regu-  
32 lar registration or renewal of registration of a motor vehicle owned by the  
33 spouse, parent or stepparent of a service member who was killed during active  
34 military service ~~in a combat zone~~ and receiving gold star license plates.

35 (5) A qualifying family member who is not the spouse, parent or step-  
36 parent shall be charged the regular registration fee and plate fee required  
37 in section 49-450, Idaho Code, and an additional fee of thirty-five dollars  
38 (\$35.00) for the initial issuance of plates and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)  
39 upon each succeeding annual registration. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the ini-  
40 tial fee and ten dollars (\$10.00) of the renewal fee shall be deposited in  
41 the state highway account and shall be used to fund the cost of administra-  
42 tion of this gold star license plate program. Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)

1 of each initial fee and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of each renewal fee shall  
2 be deposited in the veterans support fund, section 65-209, Idaho Code, and  
3 shall be used to defray the costs of administration of the eligibility certi-  
4 fication program and to provide programs to support veterans.

5 (6) Gold star license plates shall be used only on a motor vehicle owned  
6 by the qualifying family member.

7 (7) Whenever title or interest in a motor vehicle registered under this  
8 section is transferred or assigned, the registration shall expire, but the  
9 qualifying family member may transfer the gold star license plates to an-  
10 other motor vehicle upon payment of the required transfer fees. The qualify-  
11 ing family member may only display the gold star license plates after receipt  
12 of new registration from the department.

13 (8) A qualifying family member shall not register more than two (2) mo-  
14 tor vehicles under this section. This section shall not apply to any mo-  
15 tor vehicle with a registered maximum gross weight over twenty-six thousand  
16 (26,000) pounds, ~~nor~~ or to any vehicle registered under section 49-434(5),  
17 Idaho Code.

18 (9) Gold star license plates may be retained and displayed on motor ve-  
19 hicles owned by the surviving spouse of a qualifying family member. In ad-  
20 dition, the surviving spouse is eligible to reapply for and shall be issued  
21 gold star license plates if the deceased qualifying family member died on or  
22 after January 1 of the five (5) years preceding the date of reapplication for  
23 the gold star license plates. Such plates shall be used only on a motor vehi-  
24 cle owned by the surviving spouse of the qualifying family member.

25 (10) The gold star license plates shall be of a color and design ac-  
26 ceptable to the veterans affairs commission and approved by the department,  
27 utilizing a numbering system as determined by the department. Gold star  
28 license plates shall not be subject to discontinuance pursuant to section  
29 49-402C(6), Idaho Code.

30 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
31 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
32 July 1, 2022.