

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 697

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 49-403B, IDAHO CODE,
2 TO REMOVE A DEFINITION, TO REVISE DEFINITIONS, TO REVISE A PROVISION
3 REGARDING RULEMAKING, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING A FEE EXEMPTION,
4 AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PRO-
5 VIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
6

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

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

10 49-403B. GOLD STAR -- LICENSE PLATES. (1) In this section:

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

14 ~~(b) "Qualifying cause of death" means a death of a person due to hostile~~
15 ~~action while serving in the armed forces of the United States on active~~
16 ~~duty in a combat zone as the division of veterans services may define by~~
17 ~~rule.~~

18 (eb) "Qualifying family member" means ~~the~~ a surviving spouse, parent,
19 stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, half-sibling, stepsibling,
20 grandparent, or legal guardian ~~of~~:

21 (i) Of a person who died due to a qualifying cause of death; or

22 (ii) Who has been awarded a gold star lapel pin.

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, or proof of
31 having been awarded a gold star lapel pin.

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

37 (5) A qualifying family member who is not the spouse, parent, or step-
38 parent shall be charged the regular registration fee and plate fee required
39 in section 49-450, Idaho Code, and an additional fee of thirty-five dollars
40 (\$35.00) for the initial issuance of plates and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
41 upon each succeeding annual registration. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the ini-
42 tial fee and ten dollars (\$10.00) of the renewal fee shall be deposited in

1 the state highway account and shall be used to fund the cost of administra-
2 tion of this gold star license plate program. Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)
3 of each initial fee and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of each renewal fee shall
4 be deposited in the veterans support fund, section 65-209, Idaho Code, and
5 shall be used to defray the costs of administration of the eligibility certi-
6 fication program and to provide programs to support veterans.

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

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

15 (8) A qualifying family member shall not register more than two (2)
16 motor vehicles under this section. This section shall not apply to any mo-
17 tor vehicle with a registered maximum gross weight over twenty-six thousand
18 (26,000) pounds, nor to any vehicle registered under section 49-434(5),
19 Idaho Code.

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

27 (10) The gold star license plates shall be of a color and design ac-
28 ceptable to the veterans affairs commission and approved by the department,
29 utilizing a numbering system as determined by the department. Gold star
30 license plates shall not be subject to discontinuance pursuant to section
31 49-402C(6), Idaho Code.

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