

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 547

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT LICENSE PLATES; AMENDING SECTION
2 49-403A, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE A REQUIREMENT REGARDING PLATE FEES AND TO
3 MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING
4 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
5

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

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

9 49-403A. PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT -- LICENSE PLATES. (1) Purple heart
10 recipient license plates are available to any applicant who is a veteran or
11 an active or retired member of any of the armed forces of the United States,
12 reserve forces, or Idaho national guard and who furnishes proof of entitle-
13 ment by providing one (1) of the following documents:

14 (a) A copy of form DD214 or equivalent document showing an award of the
15 purple heart medal;

16 (b) A copy of the certificate presented with the medal; or

17 (c) A copy of the military order describing the award of the medal to the
18 applicant.

19 (2) ~~In addition to the regular registration fee, the applicant shall~~
20 The applicant shall be charged the regular registration fee but shall not be
21 charged the plate fee required in section 49-450, Idaho Code. Whenever ti-
22 tle or interest in a vehicle registered under the provisions of this section
23 is transferred or assigned, the registration shall expire, but the purple
24 heart recipient may transfer his plates to another vehicle upon payment of
25 the required transfer fees. He may display the plates only after receipt of
26 new registration from the department. A purple heart recipient may register
27 multiple vehicles under the provisions of this section. The provisions of
28 this section shall not apply to any vehicle with a registered maximum gross
29 weight over twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds, nor to any vehicle regis-
30 tered under section 49-434 (5), Idaho Code.

31 (3) Purple heart recipient license plates may be retained and displayed
32 on vehicles owned by the surviving spouse of a deceased purple heart recipi-
33 ent. In addition, the surviving spouse of a deceased purple heart recipient
34 is eligible to reapply for and shall be issued purple heart recipient license
35 plates if the deceased purple heart recipient died on or after January 1 of
36 the five (5) years preceding the date of reapplication for the plates. Such
37 plates shall be used on a vehicle owned by the surviving spouse.

38 (4) The purple heart recipient license plates shall be of a color and
39 design acceptable to the military order of the purple heart association and
40 approved by the department, utilizing a numbering system as determined by
41 the department.

1 (5) Effective January 1, 2015, for those purple heart recipients who
2 are listed as an owner of the vehicle who also qualify as disabled pursuant
3 to section 49-410, Idaho Code, the international accessible symbol will also
4 appear on the purple heart license plates. Such requirements must be met
5 upon application for the license plates. Those plates with the disability
6 symbol shall be nontransferable to a surviving spouse, unless the require-
7 ments of section 49-410, Idaho Code, can be met by the spouse.

8 (6) A purple heart recipient who qualifies for a disabled veteran fee
9 exemption under section 49-403, Idaho Code, shall have a choice between a
10 purple heart recipient license plate or a disabled veteran license plate and
11 shall not be charged a plate fee or a fee for registration or reregistration
12 of the motor vehicle. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to the
13 vehicle originally purchased under this authorization and also to any ve-
14 hicle subsequently purchased and owned by the same veteran. The privilege
15 shall not extend to more than one (1) vehicle owned by the veteran at a time.

16 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
17 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
18 July 1, 2024.