

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 6150

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Transportation

**Title:** An act relating to Medal of Honor special license plates.

**Brief Description:** Concerning Medal of Honor special license plates.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Bailey, Hobbs, Angel, Benton, Conway, O'Ban, Roach and McAuliffe).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Transportation: 2/24/14, 2/25/14 [DP].

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Allows registered owners who have been awarded the Medal of Honor to apply for Medal of Honor special license plates for use on up to three motor vehicles.
- Allows recipients of the Medal of Honor to receive regular issue or special license plates exempt from vehicle license fees and motor vehicle excise taxes in lieu of applying for the Medal of Honor special license plates.
- Removes "Congressional" in reference to the title of the medal.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 31 members: Representatives Clibborn, Chair; Farrell, Vice Chair; Fey, Vice Chair; Moscoso, Vice Chair; Orcutt, Ranking Minority Member; Hargrove, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Overstreet, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bergquist, Fitzgibbon, Freeman, Habib, Hawkins, Hayes, Johnson, Klippert, Kochmar, Moeller, Morris, Muri, Ortiz-Self, Pike, Riccelli, Rodne, Ryu, Sells, Shea, Takko, Tarleton, Walkinshaw, Young and Zeiger.

**Staff:** Paul Ingiosi (786-7114).

**Background:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

In 1979 the Legislature authorized the creation of a Congressional Medal of Honor special license plate. Washington residents who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor may apply for the special license plate for display on a vehicle of which they are the registered owner through the Department of Licensing (DOL) by completing a military license plate application and submitting a letter of eligibility from the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) verifying that they have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Under current law, the Congressional Medal of Honor special license plates must be issued for use on a single motor vehicle owned by the person who has received the Congressional Medal of Honor and without payment of vehicle license fees, license plate fees, and motor vehicle excise taxes. The plates must also be replaced, free of charge, if the plates become lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or destroyed. The plates may be transferred, free of charge, from one motor vehicle to another owned by the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient upon application to the DOL, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the Director of the DOL.

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**Summary of Bill:**

The bill allows registered owners who have been awarded the Medal of Honor to apply for Medal of Honor special license plates for use on up to three motor vehicles. In lieu of applying for the Medal of Honor special license plate, a recipient of the Medal of Honor is eligible to receive regular issue or special license plates exempt from vehicle license fees and motor vehicle excise taxes.

Additionally, references to "Congressional" in the title of the medal are eliminated.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) A Medal of Honor recipient inquired why they could not get Medal of Honor special license plates for more than one vehicle. This seems like such a small thing compared to what the Medal of Honor recipients have done for us.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Senator Bailey, prime sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.