

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5161

As Amended by House, April 9, 2013

Title: An act relating to gold star license plates.

Brief Description: Authorizing certain eligible family members of United States armed forces members who died while in service or as a result of service to apply for gold star license plates.

Sponsors: Senators Braun, Carrell, Padden, Bailey, Becker, Fain, Roach, Sheldon, Dammeier, Honeyford, Schoesler, Conway, Rolfes and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/30/13, 2/05/13 [DP].

Passed Senate: 2/15/13, 47-0.

Passed House: 4/09/13, 94-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Eide, Co-Chair; King, Co-Chair; Benton, Vice Co-Chair; Hobbs, Vice Co-Chair; Fain, Budget Leadership Cabinet; Billig, Brown, Carrell, Ericksen, Harper, Mullet, Rolfes, Schlicher, Sheldon and Smith.

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

Background: The Department of Licensing issues various special vehicle license plates that may be used in lieu of standard plates. Generally, special license plates that are sponsored by a governmental or nonprofit organization have an additional fee that is due annually, with the proceeds benefiting a specific organization or purpose. Other special license plates are available to individuals that meet certain requirements. One such special plate is the Gold Star license plate, which may be issued to the mother or father of a member of the armed forces who died while in service and as a result of that service. Gold Star license plates are issued without payment of any license plate fees and are replaced free of charge if the plate is lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or destroyed.

Summary of Bill: The list of individuals that are eligible to receive a Gold Star license plate is expanded to include a widow or widower, an adoptive parent, a stepparent, and a foster parent or other adult that is legally responsible for the member of the armed forces.

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.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on August 1, 2013.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill honors the next of kin of those people that give their life in service to the country. Our armed forces can only do what they do because of the support of their families.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Braun, prime sponsor; Ted Wicorek, Veterans Legislative Coalition.

House Amendment(s): Further expands the list of family members eligible to apply for a Gold Star license plate to include a biological child or adopted child.