
SENATE BILL 5209

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Senators O'Ban, Conway, Zeiger, and Fortunato

Read first time 01/17/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to certain gold star license plate qualified
2 applicants and recipients; and amending RCW 46.18.245.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.18.245 and 2015 c 208 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A registered owner who is an eligible family member of a
7 member of the United States armed forces who died while in service to
8 his or her country, or as a result of his or her service, may apply
9 to the department for special gold star license plates for use on a
10 motor vehicle. The registered owner must:

11 (a) Be a resident of this state;

12 (b) Provide proof to the satisfaction of the department that the
13 registered owner is an eligible family member, which includes:

14 (i) A widow;

15 (ii) A widower;

16 (iii) A biological parent;

17 (iv) An adoptive parent;

18 (v) A stepparent;

19 (vi) An adult in loco parentis or foster parent;

20 (vii) A biological child;

21 (viii) An adopted child; or

1 (ix) A sibling;

2 (c) Provide certification from the Washington state department of
3 veterans affairs that the registered owner qualifies for the special
4 license plate under this section;

5 (d) Be recorded as the registered owner of the motor vehicle on
6 which the gold star license plates will be displayed; and

7 (e) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, pay all
8 fees and taxes required by law for registering the motor vehicle.

9 (2)(a) In addition to the license plate fee exemption in
10 subsection (3)(b) of this section, the widow or widower recipient of
11 a gold star license plate under this section is also exempt from
12 annual vehicle registration fees for one personal use motor vehicle.
13 The widow or widower recipient of a gold star license plate under
14 this section may also apply for a standard issue license plate or any
15 qualifying special license plate for one personal use motor vehicle
16 and be exempt from both annual vehicle registration fees and license
17 plate fees for that vehicle.

18 (b) In lieu of applying for a gold star license plate under this
19 section, an eligible widow or widower under subsection (1)(b) of this
20 section may apply for a standard issue license plate or any
21 qualifying special license plate for one personal use motor vehicle
22 and be exempt from both annual vehicle registration fees and license
23 plate fees for that vehicle.

24 (3) Gold star license plates must be issued:

25 (a) Only for motor vehicles owned by qualifying applicants; and

26 (b) Without payment of any license plate fee.

27 (4) Gold star license plates must be replaced, free of charge, if
28 the license plates become lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or
29 destroyed.

30 (5) Gold star license plates may be transferred from one motor
31 vehicle to another motor vehicle owned by the eligible family member,
32 as described in subsection (1) of this section, upon application to
33 the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed
34 by the director.

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