

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1716

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING MILITARY SERVICE AND VETERANS SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES; AND TO ALLOW THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE.

Basic Change :

Sponsors: Representatives Gates, Richmond, Eubanks, C. Fite, Burch, Richardson, Kelly, Eaves, Davis, Lowery, and Breaux; Senators Hammer, Clark, and Flippo

HB1716 amends Arkansas code § 27-24-208 and allows for the Department of Finance and Administration to issue a special license plate to an applicant that establishes he or she is a surviving spouse of a deceased person who was entitled to be issued a Medal of Honor, Purple Heart Recipient, or Distinguished Flying Cross special license plate.

Revenue Impact :

Gradual decrease in registration fees.

Taxpayer Impact :

Surviving spouses will be eligible for Medal of Honor, Purple Heart Recipient, or Distinguished Flying Cross special license plates if their deceased spouse was entitled and eligible for issuance of the plate(s).

Resources Required :

No additional resources will be required.

Time Required :

Adequate time has been allowed.

Procedural Changes :

Update Motor Vehicle Manual.

Other Comments :

Current law allows for a surviving spouse to be reissued a free Purple Heart Plate of a deceased person to whom the plate was originally issued.

Legal Analysis :

HB1716 authorizes DFA to issue a special license plate to the surviving spouse of a deceased person who would have been entitled to receive a special license plate as a Medal of Honor Recipient, Purple Heart Recipient, or Distinguished Flying Cross. The surviving spouse must provide: (1) evidence the deceased spouse was awarded the military decoration corresponding to the special plate; and (2) payment of the required fee.

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Act 167 of 2019, introduced as HB1012, allows the surviving spouse of a deceased person that was eligible to be issued a Purple Heart Recipient special license plate to be issued the special license plate upon presentation of proof of eligibility for the Purple Heart plate and payment of the required fee. This provision is already codified at § 27-24-208.

Drafting Note: The citation for the fee referenced on page 2, line 5 should be updated to "§ 27-24-206(a)(2)".