

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 557**

Ordered by the Senate May 1  
Including Senate Amendments dated May 1

Sponsored by Senators MORSE, METSGER (at the request of Michael Thorpe)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Department of Transportation [*to establish program*] to issue Gold Star Family registration plates to family members of person killed during active service in Armed Forces of United States.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to Gold Star Family registration plate; amending ORS 805.205.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 805.205 is amended to read:

5 805.205. (1) The Department of Transportation by rule shall provide for issuance of registration  
6 plates described in subsection (3) of this section for nonprofit groups meeting the qualifications for  
7 tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for institutions of higher  
8 education, [*and*] for veterans' organizations **and for surviving family members of a person killed**  
9 **while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.** The department shall also pro-  
10 vide, upon request from a veterans' group or the Director of Veterans' Affairs, for issuance of a  
11 veterans' recognition registration plate that may be issued only to veterans. Plates issued under this  
12 section may be issued to owners of motor vehicles registered under the provisions of ORS 803.420  
13 (1). Plates issued under this section may not contain expressions of political opinion or religious  
14 belief. Rules adopted under this section shall include, but need not be limited to, rules that:

15 (a) Describe general qualifications to be met by any group in order to be eligible for plates is-  
16 sued under this section.

17 (b) Specify circumstances under which the department may cease to issue plates for any partic-  
18 ular group.

19 (c) Require each group for which plates are issued, other than a group or the Director of Vet-  
20 erans' Affairs requesting a veterans' recognition plate **or surviving family members requesting**  
21 **a Gold Star Family plate as described in subsection (3) of this section,** to file an annual state-  
22 ment on a form designed by the department showing that the group is a nonprofit group or an in-  
23 stitution of higher education and otherwise meets the qualifications imposed for eligibility for plates  
24 issued under this section. The statement shall include names and addresses of current directors or  
25 officers of the group or of other persons authorized to speak for the group or institution on matters  
26 affecting plates issued under this section.

27 (d) Require proof of veteran status for issuance of a veterans' recognition plate and specify what  
28 constitutes proof.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **(e) Require proof that a person is a surviving family member, as defined by rule, of a**  
2 **person killed while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for issuance of**  
3 **a Gold Star Family plate and specify what constitutes proof.**

4       (2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, in addition to any other  
5 fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section and upon renewal of registration  
6 for a vehicle that has plates issued under this section, the department shall collect a surcharge of  
7 \$2.50 per plate for each year of the registration period.

8       (b) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a plate under this section  
9 that recognizes an institution of higher education in this state, and upon renewal of registration for  
10 a vehicle that has such plates, the department shall collect a surcharge of \$8 per plate for each year  
11 of the registration period.

12       (3) Plates issued under this section shall be from the current regular issue of plates except that:

13       (a) In consultation with the group or the Director of Veterans' Affairs requesting the plates, the  
14 department shall add words to the plate that name or describe the group or veterans recognized.

15       (b) If the group or the Director of Veterans' Affairs requesting the plates represents persons  
16 who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal, the plates shall contain an image of the medal.

17       (c) If the group requesting the plates is an institution of higher education, the plates shall, upon  
18 request, contain words that indicate the plates are issued to recognize the institution or shall con-  
19 tain the institution's logo or an image of the institution's mascot.

20       **(d) For a Gold Star Family plate, the department may redesign an existing group plate**  
21 **and shall add a gold star logo to the plate.**

22       (4) Except as otherwise required by the design chosen, the plates shall comply with the re-  
23 quirements of ORS 803.535. The department shall determine how many sets of plates shall be man-  
24 ufactured for each group approved under this section, [or] for the Director of Veterans' Affairs **and**  
25 **for the Gold Star Family plate.** If the department does not sell or issue renewal for 500 sets of  
26 plates for a particular group or for the Director of Veterans' Affairs in any one year, the department  
27 shall cease production of those plates.

28       (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6) of this section, each group that is found by  
29 the department to be eligible for plates issued under this section may designate an account into  
30 which the net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department under subsection (2) of this  
31 section are to be deposited. The department shall keep accurate records of the number of plates is-  
32 sued for each group that qualifies. After payment of administrative expenses of the department,  
33 moneys collected under this section for each group shall be deposited by the department into an  
34 account specified by that group. If any group does not specify an account for the moneys collected  
35 from the sale of plates issued under this section, the department shall deposit moneys collected for  
36 those plates into the Environmental Quality Information Account established under ORS 802.100 to  
37 be used as other moneys in the account are used. Deposits under this subsection shall be made at  
38 least quarterly.

39       (6)(a) Each institution of higher education that requests a plate under this section shall desig-  
40 nate an account in the general fund of the institution, and the proceeds in the account shall be used  
41 for the purpose of academic enrichment at the institution.

42       (b) Net proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department for the veterans' recognition plate  
43 shall be deposited in the trust fund established under ORS 406.050 for paying the expenses of oper-  
44 ating the Oregon Veterans' Home. Deposits under this paragraph shall be made at least quarterly.

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