

House Bill 3001

Sponsored by Representative HELM, Senator MEEK; Representative EVANS (Presession filed.)

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 **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Transportation to waive fee for Fallen Hero roadside memorial highway sign if applicant is Gold Star Family member and funds are appropriated or otherwise made available to department for purpose of paying fees.

Directs department to waive surcharge for Gold Star Family registration plate if applicant is Gold Star Family member and funds are appropriated or otherwise made available to department for purpose of paying surcharge.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Gold Star Family members; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 366.931 and
3 805.105.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 366.931 is amended to read:

6 366.931. (1) As used in this section[,]:

7 (a) "Armed Forces of the United States" means:

8 [(a)] (A) The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States;

9 [(b)] (A) The reserves of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the
10 United States; and

11 [(c)] (B) The Oregon National Guard and a National Guard of any other state or territory.

12 (b) "Gold Star Family member" means a person who is a parent, sibling, spouse or de-
13 pendent of a person who was killed in action during an armed conflict while serving in the
14 Armed Forces of the United States.

15 (c) "Sibling" includes siblings of the whole or half blood and siblings by adoption, mar-
16 riage or domestic partnership.

17 (2) To recognize and honor those who were killed in action or who died as a result of wounds
18 received in action while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, the Department of
19 Transportation shall erect and maintain a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign if:

20 (a)(A) The Legislative Assembly adopts a concurrent resolution that recognizes the individual
21 killed in the line of duty; or

22 (B) The individual killed in the line of duty was formerly designated as either a prisoner of war
23 or unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the remains of the individual
24 have been recovered, identified and returned to Oregon; and

25 (b) The department receives the payment of a fee determined by the department under sub-
26 section (3) of this section.

27 (3) The department shall determine the amount of the fee required under subsection (2)(b) of this
28 section by rule. The fee may not exceed the direct and indirect expenses associated with erecting,
29 maintaining and removing a roadside memorial sign.

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 (4) The department shall deposit the fees that the department collects under this section into
 2 the Roadside Memorial Fund established under ORS 366.932.

3 (5) **Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section**, a public body, as defined in ORS
 4 174.109, may not expend moneys for the purpose of paying the fee required under this section.

5 (6) **The department shall waive the fee required under this section and expend moneys**
 6 **for the purpose of paying the fee required under this section if:**

7 (a) **A request to waive the fee is submitted by a Gold Star Family member; and**

8 (b) **Funds are appropriated by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise made available to**
 9 **the department for the purpose of paying the fees.**

10 [(6)] (7) The department, by rule, shall establish the size, design and location of a roadside me-
 11 morial sign erected under this section. The sign must include the name of the individual the sign is
 12 recognizing.

13 **SECTION 2.** ORS 805.105 is amended to read:

14 805.105. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish a veterans' recognition registra-
 15 tion plate program to issue registration plates called "veterans' recognition registration plates"
 16 upon request to an owner of any motor vehicle registered under ORS 803.420 (6)(a) if the owner of
 17 the motor vehicle qualifies for the plates. Rules adopted under this section shall include, but need
 18 not be limited to, rules that:

19 (a) Describe general qualifications to be met by any veterans' group in order to be eligible for
 20 a veterans' recognition registration plate issued under this section.

21 (b) Specify circumstances under which the department may cease to issue veterans' recognition
 22 registration plates.

23 (c) Specify what constitutes proof of veteran status for issuance of a veterans' recognition reg-
 24 istration plate, if such proof is required by a veterans' group or by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

25 (d) Specify what constitutes proof that a person is a surviving family member of a person who
 26 was killed in action during an armed conflict while serving in the Armed Forces of the United
 27 States. The department may only issue a veterans' recognition registration plate displaying a gold
 28 star decal and the words "Gold Star Family" to a person who is a parent, sibling, spouse or de-
 29 pendent of a person who was killed in action during an armed conflict while serving in the Armed
 30 Forces of the United States.

31 (2)(a) In addition to any other fee authorized by law, upon issuance of a veterans' recognition
 32 registration plate under this section and upon renewal of registration for a vehicle that has plates
 33 issued under this section, the department shall collect a surcharge of \$2.50 per plate for each year
 34 of the registration period for the vehicle as described under ORS 803.415.

35 (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, net proceeds of the sur-
 36 charge collected by the department for the veterans' recognition registration plate shall be deposited
 37 in the trust fund established under ORS 406.050 for paying the expenses of operating the Oregon
 38 Veterans' Homes identified in ORS 408.362.

39 (c) If the department issues a veterans' recognition registration plate that names, describes or
 40 represents a veterans' group, that veterans' group may designate an account into which the net
 41 proceeds of the surcharge collected by the department under this section are to be deposited. The
 42 department shall keep accurate records of the number of plates issued under this paragraph for each
 43 veterans' group and, after payment of administrative expenses of the department, shall deposit
 44 moneys collected under this subsection into the specified account.

45 (d) **The department shall waive the surcharge required under paragraph (a) of this sub-**

1 **section and transfer the amount otherwise paid by the person to the trust fund established**
2 **under ORS 406.050 if:**

3 **(A) A request to waive the surcharge is submitted by a Gold Star Family member; and**

4 **(B) Funds are appropriated by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise made available to**
5 **the department for the purpose of paying the surcharge.**

6 [(d)] (e) Deposits under this subsection shall be made quarterly.

7 (3)(a) In consultation with the Department of Transportation, the Director of Veterans' Affairs
8 shall design the veterans' recognition registration plate.

9 (b) If the department issues a veterans' recognition registration plate to recognize a veterans'
10 group, the department shall, in consultation with the requesting veterans' group, add words or a
11 military-related decal to the veterans' recognition registration plate that names, describes or re-
12 presents the veterans' group.

13 (c) The department shall add a gold star decal and the words "Gold Star Family" to a veterans'
14 recognition registration plate background to recognize surviving family members of persons killed
15 in action during an armed conflict while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

16 (d) Except as otherwise required by the design, veterans' recognition registration plates must
17 comply with the requirements of ORS 803.535.

18 (4) The department shall determine how many sets of veterans' recognition registration plates
19 will be manufactured. If the department does not sell or issue renewal for 500 sets of veterans' re-
20 cognition registration plates in any one year, the department shall cease production of veterans'
21 recognition registration plates. For the purposes of this section, veterans' recognition registration
22 plates that name, describe or represent a veterans' group are included in the total number of
23 veterans' recognition registration plates issued.

24 (5) For the purposes of this section, "sibling" includes siblings of the whole or half blood and
25 siblings by adoption, marriage or domestic partnership.

26 **SECTION 3. (1) The amendments to ORS 366.931 by section 1 of this 2023 Act apply to**
27 **applications received on or after the effective date of this 2023 Act.**

28 **(2) The amendments to ORS 805.105 by section 2 of this 2023 Act apply to plates issued,**
29 **renewed or replaced on or after the effective date of this 2023 Act.**

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