

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 135

BY SENATORS LAMBERT, CORTEZ, FANNIN, HEWITT AND LONG

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MOTOR VEHICLES. Creates the "Blue Star Mothers" special prestige license plate.
(1/1/18)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 47:463.192, relative to motor vehicles; to provide for the "Blue Star Mothers" special prestige license plate; to provide for the creation, issuance, and design of such plate; to authorize adoption of rules and regulations; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 47:463.192 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§463.192. Special prestige license plate; "Blue Star Mothers"

A. The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, shall establish a special prestige motor vehicle license plate to be known as the "Blue Star Mothers" plate. The plate shall be restricted to use on passenger cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, and vans.

B. The deputy secretary shall work in conjunction with the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women/Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1, to select the color and design of the plate, provided it is in compliance with R.S. 47:463(A)(3).

1 **C. The special prestige license plate shall be issued, upon application, in**
2 **the same manner as any other motor vehicle license plate, to a Louisiana**
3 **resident who submits written evidence that the applicant is the owner of a motor**
4 **vehicle and is the spouse, sibling, parent, or child of a person serving or who has**
5 **served in the armed forces of the United States. As used in this Subsection,**
6 **"armed forces of the United States" means persons serving or who have served**
7 **in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard,**
8 **reservists, and members of the National Guard. The plate issued under this**
9 **Section shall not be transferable between motor vehicle owners. In the event the**
10 **owner of a motor vehicle issued a "Blue Star Mothers" plate should sell, trade,**
11 **exchange, or otherwise dispose of such vehicle, the plate shall be retained by**
12 **original applicant to whom the plate was issued.**

13 **D. For the purposes of this Section, an applicant shall submit proof of**
14 **service and establish his family relationship to the armed service member. Proof**
15 **of service shall include but not be limited to a member's military identification**
16 **card, a member's DD214, a member's leave and earning statement, or a letter**
17 **from the member's unit commander on official letterhead describing the**
18 **member's status. Proof of family relationship shall include but not be limited**
19 **to a marriage license, a birth certificate, or a signed and notarized affidavit**
20 **from the service member attesting to the applicant's family relationship.**

21 **E. The department shall collect an annual royalty fee of twenty-five**
22 **dollars that shall be disbursed in accordance with Subsection F of this Section.**
23 **This royalty fee shall be in addition to the standard motor vehicle license tax**
24 **imposed by Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and a**
25 **handling fee of three dollars and fifty cents for each plate to be retained by the**
26 **department to offset a portion of administrative costs.**

27 **F. The annual royalty fee shall be collected by the department and**
28 **forwarded to the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women/Blue Star**
29 **Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1.**

1 **G. The deputy secretary shall adopt rules and regulations as are**
 2 **necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.**

3 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2018.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

DIGEST

SB 135 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Lambert

Proposed law requires the deputy secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, to create and issue the "Blue Star Mothers" special prestige license plate.

Proposed law provides for issuance of the plate to an applicant who is a Louisiana resident, submits written evidence of motor vehicle ownership, and family relationship as the spouse, sibling, parent, or child of a person serving or who has served in the armed forces of the United States.

Proposed law provides that "armed forces of the United States" means and includes persons serving or who have served in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, including reservists, and members of the National Guard.

Proposed law provides that an applicant shall submit proof of service and establish his family relationship to the armed service member. Provides that proof of service includes a member's military identification card, a member's DD214, a member's leave and earning statement, or a letter from the member's unit commander on official letterhead describing the member's status; further, provides that proof of family relationship includes a marriage license, a birth certificate, or a signed and notarized affidavit from the service member attesting to the applicant's family relationship.

Proposed law provides that the plate is not transferable between motor vehicle owners and shall be retained by applicant to whom the plate was issued if he should sell, trade, exchange, or otherwise dispose of such vehicle.

Proposed law requires the department to collect an annual royalty fee of \$25 in addition to the standard motor vehicle license tax and a \$3.50 handling fee for each plate to be retained by the department to offset a portion of administrative costs.

Proposed law requires the department to forward the royalty monies collected to the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women/Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1.

Proposed law provides for adoption of rules and regulations necessary to implement its provisions.

Effective January 1, 2018.

(Adds R.S. 47:463.192)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill

1. Revises name of plate to "Blue Star Mothers".

2. Removes requirement for certification by the LA Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
3. Removes distribution of a portion of annual royalty fees to the LA Military Family Assistance Fund.
4. Provides for the annual royalty fees collected to be forwarded to the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women/Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1.
5. Changes the effective date to January 1, 2018.
6. Makes technical corrections.