

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 603

BY REPRESENTATIVES GADBERRY, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, COX, DUPLESSIS, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, FIRMENT, FISHER, FREIBERG, FRIEMAN, GAINES, GLOVER, HARRIS, HODGES, HORTON, ILLG, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, KERNER, LYONS, MACK, MARINO, MCFARLAND, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL, CHARLES OWEN, PIERRE, RISER, SCHAMERHORN, SELDERS, THOMPSON, WHEAT, AND WHITE

MTR VEHICLE/LICEN PLATES: Creates military honor specialty license plates

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:490.34 through 490.36, relative to military honor license plates; to provide
3 for the establishment of a military honor license plate for women veterans,
4 Commemorative Service recipients, and Military Medal Award recipients; to provide
5 for the creation, issuance, fees, distribution, and rule promulgation applicable to the
6 design of such plates; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 47:490.34 through 490.36 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §490.34. Military honor license plates; "Woman Veteran"; "Commemorative
10 Service"; and "Military Medal Award"

11 A. The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall
12 establish a military honor license plate to be known as the "Woman Veteran" plate.

13 B. Upon application of a "Woman Veteran" recipient, the secretary of the
14 Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall issue a military honor license
15 plate to be used in lieu of a regular motor vehicle registration plate. The license plate
16 shall be restricted to use on passenger cars, pickup trucks, recreational vehicles,

1 motorcycles, and vans. The "Woman Veteran" plate shall include the seal of the
2 veteran's branch of service and the words "Woman Veteran".

3 C. The charge for this license plate shall be the regular motor vehicle
4 registration license fee as provided for under the provisions of R.S. 47:463.

5 D. The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the
6 provisions of this Section, including but not limited to rules governing the transfer
7 of license plates from one vehicle to another and the disposition of such license
8 plates.

9 E.(1) Any applicant who qualifies for the military honor license plate
10 authorized by this Section may be issued a license plate for each vehicle registered
11 in the applicant's name.

12 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, each military honor
13 license plate issued pursuant to this Section shall be returned to the secretary upon
14 the death of the person to whom the license plate was issued. The surviving spouse
15 of a person to whom a license plate was issued pursuant to this Section may retain
16 a license plate issued pursuant to this Section, provided the surviving spouse has not
17 remarried and provided the surviving spouse applies to the secretary for a transfer
18 of the license plate to the surviving spouse. A military honor license plate
19 transferred pursuant to this Paragraph to a surviving spouse shall be returned to the
20 secretary upon the death or remarriage of the surviving spouse.

21 §490.35. Military honor license plates; "Commemorative Service" recipients

22 A.(1) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall
23 establish a military honor license plate to be known as the "Commemorative Service"
24 plate.

25 (2) This plate shall be made available to honorably discharged veterans who
26 served in the following conflicts:

27 (a) Global War on Terrorism.

28 (b) War in Iraq.

29 (c) War in Afghanistan.

1 B. Upon application of a "Commemorative Service" recipient, the secretary
2 of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall issue a military honor
3 license plate to be used in lieu of a regular motor vehicle registration plate. The
4 license plate shall be restricted to use on passenger cars, pickup trucks, recreational
5 vehicles, motorcycles, and vans. The military honor license plate shall be known as
6 the "Commemorative Service" license plate and shall include the seal of the veteran's
7 branch of service, the name of the conflict, and the campaign ribbon.

8 C. The charge for this license plate shall be the regular motor vehicle
9 registration license fee as provided for under the provisions of R.S. 47:463.

10 D. The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the
11 provisions of this Section, including but not limited to rules governing the transfer
12 of license plates from one vehicle to another and the disposition of such license
13 plates.

14 E.(1) Any applicant who qualifies for the military honor license plate
15 authorized by this Section may be issued a license plate for each vehicle registered
16 in the applicant's name.

17 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, each military honor
18 license plate issued pursuant to this Section shall be returned to the secretary upon
19 the death of the person to whom the license plate was issued. The surviving spouse
20 of a person to whom a license plate was issued pursuant to this Section may retain
21 a license plate issued pursuant to this Section, provided the surviving spouse has not
22 remarried and provided the surviving spouse applies to the secretary for a transfer
23 of the license plate to the surviving spouse. A military honor license plate
24 transferred pursuant to this Paragraph to a surviving spouse shall be returned to the
25 secretary upon the death or remarriage of the surviving spouse.

26 §490.36. Military honor license plates; "Military Medal Award" recipients

27 A.(1) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall
28 establish a military honor license plate to be known as the "Military Medal Award"
29 plate.

1 (2) This plate shall be made available to honorably discharged recipients, as
2 certified by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, of the following medal awards:

3 (a) Navy Cross.

4 (b) Air Force Cross.

5 (c) Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

6 (d) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal.

7 (e) Distinguished Service Medal (Army).

8 (f) Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

9 (g) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal.

10 (h) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal.

11 (i) Silver Star.

12 (j) Defense Superior Service Medal.

13 (k) Legion of Merit.

14 (l) Distinguished Flying Cross.

15 (m) Air Medal.

16 (n) Soldier's Medal.

17 (o) Airman's Medal.

18 (p) Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

19 (q) Coast Guard Medal.

20 B. Upon application of a "Military Medal Award" recipient, as certified by
21 the Department of Veteran's Affairs, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety
22 and Corrections shall issue a military honor license plate to be used in lieu of a
23 regular motor vehicle registration plate. The license plate shall be restricted to use
24 on passenger cars, pickup trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, and vans. The
25 military honor license plate shall be known as the "Military Medal Award" license
26 plate and shall include the name of the veteran's branch of service and the name and
27 image of the medal.

28 C. The charge for this license plate shall be the regular motor vehicle
29 registration license fee as provided for under the provisions of R.S. 47:463.

1 D. The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the
2 provisions of this Section, including but not limited to rules governing the transfer
3 of license plates from one vehicle to another and the disposition of such license
4 plates.

5 E.(1) Any applicant who qualifies for the military honor license plate
6 authorized by this Section may be issued a license plate for each vehicle registered
7 in the applicant's name.

8 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, each military honor
9 license plate issued pursuant to this Section shall be returned to the secretary upon
10 the death of the person to whom the license plate was issued. The surviving spouse
11 of a person to whom a license plate was issued pursuant to this Section may retain
12 a license plate issued pursuant to this Section, provided the surviving spouse has not
13 remarried and provided the surviving spouse applies to the secretary for a transfer
14 of the license plate to the surviving spouse. A military honor license plate
15 transferred pursuant to this Paragraph to a surviving spouse shall be returned to the
16 secretary upon the death or remarriage of the surviving spouse.

17 Section 2. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor
18 vehicles, is hereby directed to create these military honor license plates when the applicable
19 statutory provisions are met and its system is updated to accommodate the creation of new
20 plates.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 603 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Gadberry

Abstract: Creates the "Woman Veteran", "Commemorative Service" recipient, and "Military Medal Award" recipients speciality license plates.

Proposed law creates the "Woman Veteran", "Commemorative Service recipient", and "Military Medal Award". Provides for the use, name, design, and specifications of the specialty plates.

Proposed law requires the charge for the license plates be the regular motor vehicle registration license fee as provided for in present law, which waives the \$3.50 handling fee for such plate.

Proposed law requires the "Woman Veteran" license plate include the seal of the veteran's branch of service and the words "Woman Veteran".

Proposed law requires the "Commemorative Service" license plate be made available to honorably discharged veterans for serving in the following conflicts:

- (1) Global War on Terrorism.
- (2) War in Iraq.
- (3) War in Afghanistan.

Proposed law requires the "Commemorative Service" license plate include the seal of the veteran's branch of service, the name of the conflict, and the campaign ribbon.

Proposed law requires the "Military Medal Award" license plate be made available to honorably discharged recipients, as certified by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, of the following medal awards:

- (1) Navy Cross.
- (2) Air Force Cross.
- (3) Defense Distinguished Service Medal.
- (4) Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal.
- (5) Distinguished Service Medal (Army).
- (6) Navy Distinguished Service Medal.
- (7) Air Force Distinguished Service Medal.
- (8) Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal.
- (9) Silver Star.
- (10) Defense Superior Service Medal.
- (11) Legion of Merit.
- (12) Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (13) Air Medal.
- (14) Soldier's Medal.
- (15) Airman's Medal.
- (16) Navy and Marine Corps Medal.
- (17) Coast Guard Medal.

Proposed law requires the "Military Medal Award" plate include the name of the veteran's branch of service and the name and image of the medal.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to adopt rules relative to the implementation of the military honor license plates, including the transfer of the license plate to the surviving spouse and the disposition of the military honor license plates.

Proposed law requires the office of motor vehicles to create the military honor plates provided for in proposed law when the applicable statutory provisions are met and its system is updated to accommodate new plates.

(Adds R.S. 47:490.34-490.36)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove the handling fee of \$3.50 that was applicable to each military honor license plate.
3. Remove the inclusion of the U.S. flag background on each license plate.
4. Require the office of motor vehicles to create the military honor plates provided for in proposed law when the applicable statutory provisions are met and its system is updated to accommodate new plates.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add the Airman's Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, and Coast Guard Medal to the list of medal awards required to be available to honorably discharged recipients for the "Military Medal Award" license plate.