

Assembly Bill No. 103—Assemblyman Oscarson

Joint Sponsor: Senator Goicoechea

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to design, prepare and issue special license plates honoring veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have received the Silver Star or the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device, as applicable; exempting the special license plates from certain provisions otherwise applicable to special license plates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Sections 1 and 9 of this bill authorize qualified persons to apply for the issuance of license plates specially designed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, in cooperation with interested parties, to honor veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been awarded the Silver Star or the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device. Unless the special license plates are lost, stolen or mutilated, in which case a \$5 replacement fee applies, no fee in addition to the ordinarily applicable registration and license fees and governmental services taxes may be charged for the issuance or renewal of a set of the special license plates. **Section 1** also provides that: (1) a veteran who is eligible for such special license plates and who, as a result of his or her service, has suffered a 100-percent service-connected disability and receives compensation from the United States for the disability, may have the international symbol of access inscribed on his or her special license plate; and (2) a vehicle on which such plates are displayed is exempt from the payment of parking fees charged by the State or any political subdivision or other public body within the State, but not including parking fees charged by the Federal Government. **Sections 7 and 8** of this bill make conforming changes to the provisions of existing law regarding the applicability of parking laws to vehicles displaying special license plates which bear the international symbol of access. (NRS 484B.463, 484B.467)

Section 3 of this bill provides that, if the Director of the Department orders a redesign of license plates, the Department is prohibited from issuing redesigned license plates to the holder of a set of plates honoring recipients of the Silver Star or the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device without the approval of the holder.

Under existing law, most special license plates: (1) must be approved by the Department, based on a recommendation from the Commission on Special License Plates; (2) are subject to a limitation on the number of separate designs of special license plates which the Department may issue at any one time; and (3) may not be designed, prepared or issued by the Department unless a certain minimum number of applications for the plates are received. (NRS 482.367004, 482.367008, 482.36705) **Sections 4-6** of this bill exempt the special plates honoring recipients of the Silver Star or the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device from all three of the preceding requirements.

Finally, under existing law, a new vehicle dealer who is authorized to issue certificates of registration for any new motor vehicle he or she sells is prohibited



from accepting an application for the registration of a motor vehicle if the applicant wishes to obtain special license plates. (NRS 482.216) Despite the broad exemptions provided in **sections 4-6, section 2** of this bill prohibits a new vehicle dealer from accepting an application for the registration of a motor vehicle if the applicant wishes to obtain the special plates honoring recipients of the Silver Star or the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 482 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Department shall design, prepare and issue license plates honoring veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been awarded, as applicable, the:

(a) Silver Star; or

(b) Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device.

2. A person who qualifies for special license plates pursuant to this section, has suffered a 100-percent service-connected disability as a result of his or her service in the Armed Forces of the United States and receives compensation from the United States for the disability is entitled to have his or her special license plates issued pursuant to this section inscribed with the international symbol of access, which must comply with the applicable federal standards and must be white on a blue background.

3. Each person who qualifies for special license plates pursuant to this section may apply for not more than two sets of plates. If the person applies for a second set of plates for an additional vehicle, the second set of plates must have a different number than the first set of plates issued to the same applicant. Special license plates issued pursuant to this section may only be used on a private passenger vehicle, a noncommercial truck or a motor home.

4. The Department shall issue specially designed license plates for any person qualified pursuant to this section who submits an application on a form prescribed by the Department and evidence of his or her status as a recipient of the Silver Star or the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device, as applicable, and evidence of his or her



service-connected disability, if applicable, as required by the Department. The Department may designate any appropriate colors for the special plates.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a vehicle on which license plates issued by the Department pursuant to subsection 2 are displayed is exempt from the payment of any parking fees, including, without limitation, those collected through parking meters, charged by the State or any political subdivision or other public body within this State. Such a vehicle is not exempt from parking fees charged by the Federal Government, unless the Federal Government grants such an exemption.

6. If, during a registration year, the holder of a set of special license plates issued pursuant to the provisions of this section disposes of the vehicle to which the plates are affixed, the holder shall:

(a) Retain the plates and affix them to another vehicle which meets the requirements of this section and report the change to the Department in accordance with the procedure set forth for other transfers; or

(b) Within 30 days after removing the plates from the vehicle, return them to the Department.

7. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no fee in addition to the applicable registration and license fees and governmental services taxes may be charged for the issuance or renewal of a set of special license plates pursuant to this section. If the special license plates issued pursuant to this section are lost, stolen or mutilated, the owner of the vehicle may secure a set of replacement license plates from the Department for a fee of \$5.

Sec. 2. NRS 482.216 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.216 1. Upon the request of a new vehicle dealer, the Department may authorize the new vehicle dealer to:

(a) Accept applications for the registration of the new motor vehicles he or she sells and the related fees and taxes;

(b) Issue certificates of registration to applicants who satisfy the requirements of this chapter; and

(c) Accept applications for the transfer of registration pursuant to NRS 482.399 if the applicant purchased from the new vehicle dealer a new vehicle to which the registration is to be transferred.

2. A new vehicle dealer who is authorized to issue certificates of registration pursuant to subsection 1 shall:

(a) Transmit the applications received to the Department within the period prescribed by the Department;



(b) Transmit the fees collected from the applicants and properly account for them within the period prescribed by the Department;

(c) Comply with the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 4; and

(d) Bear any cost of equipment which is necessary to issue certificates of registration, including any computer hardware or software.

3. A new vehicle dealer who is authorized to issue certificates of registration pursuant to subsection 1 shall not:

(a) Charge any additional fee for the performance of those services;

(b) Receive compensation from the Department for the performance of those services;

(c) Accept applications for the renewal of registration of a motor vehicle; or

(d) Accept an application for the registration of a motor vehicle if the applicant wishes to:

(1) Obtain special license plates pursuant to NRS 482.3667 to 482.3823, inclusive ~~H~~, *and section 1 of this act*; or

(2) Claim the exemption from the governmental services tax provided pursuant to NRS 361.1565 to veterans and their relations.

4. The Director shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection must provide for:

(a) The expedient and secure issuance of license plates and decals by the Department; and

(b) The withdrawal of the authority granted to a new vehicle dealer pursuant to subsection 1 if that dealer fails to comply with the regulations adopted by the Department.

Sec. 3. NRS 482.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.270 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section or by specific statute, the Director shall order the redesign and preparation of motor vehicle license plates.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Department shall, upon the payment of all applicable fees, issue redesigned motor vehicle license plates pursuant to this section to persons who apply for the registration or renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle on or after January 1, 2001.

3. The Department shall not issue redesigned motor vehicle license plates pursuant to this section to a person who was issued motor vehicle license plates before January 1, 1982, or pursuant to NRS 482.3747, 482.3763, 482.3775, 482.378, 482.379 or



482.37901, *or section 1 of this act*, without the approval of the person.

4. The Director may determine and vary the size, shape and form and the material of which license plates are made, but each license plate must be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of 100 feet during daylight. All license plates must be treated to reflect light and to be at least 100 times brighter than conventional painted number plates. When properly mounted on an unlighted vehicle, the license plates, when viewed from a vehicle equipped with standard headlights, must be visible for a distance of not less than 1,500 feet and readable for a distance of not less than 110 feet.

5. Every license plate must have displayed upon it:

- (a) The registration number, or combination of letters and numbers, assigned to the vehicle and to the owner thereof;
- (b) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated;
- (c) If issued for a calendar year, the year; and
- (d) If issued for a registration period other than a calendar year, the month and year the registration expires.

6. Each special license plate that is designed, prepared and issued pursuant to NRS 482.367002 must be designed and prepared in such a manner that:

(a) The left-hand one-third of the plate is the only part of the plate on which is displayed any design or other insignia that is suggested pursuant to paragraph (f) of subsection 2 of that section; and

(b) The remainder of the plate conforms to the requirements for lettering and design that are set forth in this section.

Sec. 4. NRS 482.367004 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.367004 1. There is hereby created the Commission on Special License Plates. The Commission is advisory to the Department and consists of five Legislators and three nonvoting members as follows:

(a) Five Legislators appointed by the Legislative Commission:

(1) One of whom is the Legislator who served as the Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Transportation during the most recent legislative session. That Legislator may designate an alternate to serve in place of the Legislator when absent. The alternate must be another Legislator who also served on the Assembly Standing Committee on Transportation during the most recent legislative session.



(2) One of whom is the Legislator who served as the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Transportation during the most recent legislative session. That Legislator may designate an alternate to serve in place of the Legislator when absent. The alternate must be another Legislator who also served on the Senate Standing Committee on Transportation during the most recent legislative session.

(b) Three nonvoting members consisting of:

(1) The Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, or a designee of the Director.

(2) The Director of the Department of Public Safety, or a designee of the Director.

(3) The Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, or a designee of the Director.

2. Each member of the Commission appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 serves a term of 2 years, commencing on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. A vacancy on the Commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

3. Members of the Commission serve without salary or compensation for their travel or per diem expenses.

4. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall provide administrative support to the Commission.

5. The Commission shall recommend to the Department that the Department approve or disapprove:

(a) Applications for the design, preparation and issuance of special license plates that are submitted to the Department pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 482.367002;

(b) The issuance by the Department of special license plates that have been designed and prepared pursuant to NRS 482.367002; and

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, applications for the design, preparation and issuance of special license plates that have been authorized by an act of the Legislature after January 1, 2007.

➔ In determining whether to recommend to the Department the approval of such an application or issuance, the Commission shall consider, without limitation, whether it would be appropriate and feasible for the Department to, as applicable, design, prepare or issue the particular special license plate. For the purpose of making recommendations to the Department, the Commission shall consider each application in the chronological order in which the application was received by the Department.



6. On or before September 1 of each fiscal year, the Commission shall compile a list of each special license plate for which the Commission, during the immediately preceding fiscal year, recommended to the Department that the Department approve the application for the special license plate or approve the issuance of the special license plate. The list so compiled must set forth, for each such plate, the cause or charitable organization for which the special license plate generates or would generate financial support, and the intended use to which the financial support is being put or would be put. The Commission shall transmit the information described in this subsection to the Department and the Department shall make that information available on its Internet website.

7. The provisions of paragraph (c) of subsection 5 do not apply with regard to special license plates that are issued pursuant to NRS 482.3757, 482.3785, 482.3787 or 482.37901 ~~H~~ *or section 1 of this act.*

8. The Commission shall:

(a) Recommend to the Department that the Department approve or disapprove any proposed change in the distribution of money received in the form of additional fees. As used in this paragraph, "additional fees" means the fees that are charged in connection with the issuance or renewal of a special license plate for the benefit of a particular cause, fund or charitable organization. The term does not include registration and license fees or governmental services taxes.

(b) If it recommends a proposed change pursuant to paragraph (a) and determines that legislation is required to carry out the change, recommend to the Department that the Department request the assistance of the Legislative Counsel in the preparation of a bill draft to carry out the change.

Sec. 5. NRS 482.367008 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.367008 1. As used in this section, "special license plate" means:

(a) A license plate that the Department has designed and prepared pursuant to NRS 482.367002 in accordance with the system of application and petition described in that section;

(b) A license plate approved by the Legislature that the Department has designed and prepared pursuant to NRS 482.3747, 482.37903, 482.37905, 482.37917, 482.379175, 482.37918, 482.37919, 482.3792, 482.3793, 482.37933, 482.37934, 482.37935, 482.379355, 482.379365, 482.37937, 482.379375, 482.37938 or 482.37945; and



(c) Except for a license plate that is issued pursuant to NRS 482.3757, 482.3785, 482.3787 or 482.37901, *or section 1 of this act*, a license plate that is approved by the Legislature after July 1, 2005.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the Department shall not, at any one time, issue more than 30 separate designs of special license plates. Whenever the total number of separate designs of special license plates issued by the Department at any one time is less than 30, the Department shall issue a number of additional designs of special license plates that have been authorized by an act of the Legislature or the application for which has been recommended by the Commission on Special License Plates to be approved by the Department pursuant to subsection 5 of NRS 482.367004, not to exceed a total of 30 designs issued by the Department at any one time. Such additional designs must be issued by the Department in accordance with the chronological order of their authorization or approval by the Department.

3. In addition to the special license plates described in subsection 2, the Department may issue not more than five separate designs of special license plates in excess of the limit set forth in that subsection. To qualify for issuance pursuant to this subsection:

(a) The Commission on Special License Plates must have recommended to the Department that the Department approve the design, preparation and issuance of the special plates as described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection 5 of NRS 482.367004; and

(b) The special license plates must have been applied for, designed, prepared and issued pursuant to NRS 482.367002, except that:

(1) The application for the special license plates must be accompanied by a surety bond posted with the Department in the amount of \$20,000; and

(2) Pursuant to the assessment of the viability of the design of the special license plates that is conducted pursuant to this section, it is determined that at least 3,000 special license plates have been issued.

4. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, on October 1 of each year the Department shall assess the viability of each separate design of special license plate that the Department is currently issuing by determining the total number of validly registered motor vehicles to which that design of special license plate is affixed. The Department shall not determine the total



number of validly registered motor vehicles to which a particular design of special license plate is affixed if:

(a) The particular design of special license plate was designed and prepared by the Department pursuant to NRS 482.367002; and

(b) On October 1, that particular design of special license plate has been available to be issued for less than 12 months.

5. If, on October 1, the total number of validly registered motor vehicles to which a particular design of special license plate is affixed is:

(a) In the case of special license plates not described in subsection 3, less than 1,000; or

(b) In the case of special license plates described in subsection 3, less than 3,000,

↳ the Director shall provide notice of that fact in the manner described in subsection 6.

6. The notice required pursuant to subsection 5 must be provided:

(a) If the special license plate generates financial support for a cause or charitable organization, to that cause or charitable organization.

(b) If the special license plate does not generate financial support for a cause or charitable organization, to an entity which is involved in promoting the activity, place or other matter that is depicted on the plate.

7. If, on December 31 of the same year in which notice was provided pursuant to subsections 5 and 6, the total number of validly registered motor vehicles to which a particular design of special license plate is affixed is:

(a) In the case of special license plates not described in subsection 3, less than 1,000; or

(b) In the case of special license plates described in subsection 3, less than 3,000,

↳ the Director shall, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, issue an order providing that the Department will no longer issue that particular design of special license plate. Such an order does not require existing holders of that particular design of special license plate to surrender their plates to the Department and does not prohibit those holders from renewing those plates.

Sec. 6. NRS 482.36705 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.36705 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2:

(a) If a new special license plate is authorized by an act of the Legislature after January 1, 2003, other than a special license plate that is authorized pursuant to NRS 482.379375, the Legislature will



direct that the license plate not be designed, prepared or issued by the Department unless the Department receives at least 1,000 applications for the issuance of that plate within 2 years after the effective date of the act of the Legislature that authorized the plate.

(b) In addition to the requirements set forth in paragraph (a), if a new special license plate is authorized by an act of the Legislature after July 1, 2005, the Legislature will direct that the license plate not be issued by the Department unless its issuance complies with subsection 2 of NRS 482.367008.

(c) In addition to the requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b), if a new special license plate is authorized by an act of the Legislature after January 1, 2007, the Legislature will direct that the license plate not be designed, prepared or issued by the Department unless the Commission on Special License Plates recommends to the Department that the Department approve the application for the authorized plate pursuant to NRS 482.367004.

2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply with regard to special license plates that are issued pursuant to NRS 482.3757, 482.3785, 482.3787 or 482.37901 **H or section 1 of this act.**

Sec. 7. NRS 484B.463 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484B.463 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, an owner or operator of a motor vehicle displaying a special parking placard, a special parking sticker, a temporary parking placard, a temporary parking sticker or a special plate or plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.384, or a special plate or plates for a veteran with a disability issued pursuant to NRS 482.377, **or section 1 of this act**, may park the motor vehicle for not more than 4 hours at any one time in a parking zone restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted, without penalty, removal or impoundment of the vehicle if the parking is otherwise consistent with public safety and is done by a person with a permanent disability, disability of moderate duration or temporary disability, a veteran with a disability or a person transporting any such person.

2. An owner or operator of a motor vehicle displaying a special plate or plates for a veteran with a disability issued pursuant to NRS 482.377 **or section 1 of this act** may, without displaying a special license plate, placard or sticker issued pursuant to NRS 482.384, park in a parking space designated for persons who are handicapped if:

- (a) The parking is done by a veteran with a disability; or
- (b) A veteran with a disability is a passenger in the motor vehicle being parked.



3. This section does not authorize the parking of a motor vehicle in any privately or municipally owned facility for parking off the highway without paying the required fee for the time during which the vehicle is so parked.

Sec. 8. NRS 484B.467 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484B.467 1. Any parking space designated for persons who are handicapped must be indicated by a sign:

(a) Bearing the international symbol of access with or without the words "Parking," "Handicapped Parking," "Handicapped Parking Only" or "Reserved for the Handicapped," or any other word or combination of words indicating that the space is designated for persons who are handicapped;

(b) Stating "Minimum fine of \$250 for use by others" or equivalent words; and

(c) The bottom of which must be not less than 4 feet above the ground.

2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, a parking space designated for persons who are handicapped which:

(a) Is designed for the exclusive use of a vehicle with a side-loading wheelchair lift; and

(b) Is located in a parking lot with 60 or more parking spaces,
➔ must be indicated by a sign using a combination of words to state that the space is for the exclusive use of a vehicle with a side-loading wheelchair lift.

3. If a parking space is designed for the use of a vehicle with a side-loading wheelchair lift, the space which is immediately adjacent and intended for use in the loading and unloading of a wheelchair into or out of such a vehicle must be indicated by a sign:

(a) Stating "No Parking" or similar words which indicate that parking in such a space is prohibited;

(b) Stating "Minimum fine of \$250 for violation" or similar words indicating that the minimum fine for parking in such a space is \$250; and

(c) The bottom of which must not be less than 4 feet above the ground.

4. An owner of private property upon which is located a parking space described in subsection 1, 2 or 3 shall erect and maintain or cause to be erected and maintained any sign required pursuant to subsection 1, 2 or 3, whichever is applicable. If a parking space described in subsection 1, 2 or 3 is located on public property, the governmental entity having control over that public property shall erect and maintain or cause to be erected and



maintained any sign required pursuant to subsection 1, 2 or 3, whichever is applicable.

5. A person shall not park a vehicle in a space designated for persons who are handicapped by a sign that meets the requirements of subsection 1, whether on public or privately owned property, unless the person is eligible to do so and the vehicle displays:

(a) A special license plate or plates issued pursuant to NRS 482.384;

(b) A special or temporary parking placard issued pursuant to NRS 482.384;

(c) A special or temporary parking sticker issued pursuant to NRS 482.384;

(d) A special license plate or plates, a special or temporary parking sticker, or a special or temporary parking placard displaying the international symbol of access issued by another state or a foreign country; or

(e) A special license plate or plates for a veteran with a disability issued pursuant to NRS 482.377 ~~+~~ *or section 1 of this act.*

6. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person shall not park a vehicle in a space that is reserved for the exclusive use of a vehicle with a side-loading wheelchair lift and is designated for persons who are handicapped by a sign that meets the requirements of subsection 2, whether on public or privately owned property, unless:

(a) The person is eligible to do so;

(b) The vehicle displays the special license plate, plates or placard set forth in subsection 5; and

(c) The vehicle is equipped with a side-loading wheelchair lift.

➤ A person who meets the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) may park a vehicle that is not equipped with a side-loading wheelchair lift in such a parking space if the space is in a parking lot with fewer than 60 parking spaces.

7. A person shall not park in a space which:

(a) Is immediately adjacent to a space designed for use by a vehicle with a side-loading wheelchair lift; and

(b) Is designated as a space in which parking is prohibited by a sign that meets the requirements of subsection 3,

➤ whether on public or privately owned property.

8. A person shall not use a plate, sticker or placard set forth in subsection 5 to park in a space designated for persons who are handicapped unless he or she is a person with a permanent disability, disability of moderate duration or temporary disability, a



veteran with a disability or the driver of a vehicle in which any such person is a passenger.

9. A person with a permanent disability, disability of moderate duration or temporary disability to whom a:

(a) Special license plate, or a special or temporary parking sticker, has been issued pursuant to NRS 482.384 shall not allow any other person to park the vehicle or motorcycle displaying the special license plate or special or temporary parking sticker in a space designated for persons who are handicapped unless the person with the permanent disability, disability of moderate duration or temporary disability is a passenger in the vehicle or on the motorcycle, or is being picked up or dropped off by the driver of the vehicle or motorcycle, at the time that the vehicle or motorcycle is parked in the space designated for persons who are handicapped.

(b) Special or temporary parking placard has been issued pursuant to NRS 482.384 shall not allow any other person to park the vehicle which displays the special or temporary parking placard in a space designated for persons who are handicapped unless the person with the permanent disability, disability of moderate duration or temporary disability is a passenger in the vehicle, or is being picked up or dropped off by the driver of the vehicle, at the time that it is parked in the space designated for persons who are handicapped.

10. A person who violates any of the provisions of subsections 5 to 9, inclusive, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished:

(a) Upon the first offense, by a fine of \$250.

(b) Upon the second offense, by a fine of \$250 and not less than 8 hours, but not more than 50 hours, of community service.

(c) Upon the third or subsequent offense, by a fine of not less than \$500, but not more than \$1,000 and not less than 25 hours, but not more than 100 hours, of community service.

Sec. 9. As soon as practicable after July 1, 2015, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall design the special license plates described in section 1 of this act in cooperation with interested parties.

Sec. 10. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

