

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 250—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

MARCH 11, 2015

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to special license plates.
(BDR 43-1071)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to special license plates; revising provisions relating to disabled veterans who are entitled to special license plates; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes the issuance of special license plates to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, or who were awarded the Purple Heart or the Congressional Medal of Honor. (NRS 482.3765, 482.3775, 482.378) Existing law also authorizes the issuance of special license plates to a veteran who has been captured and held as a prisoner of war or 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. Special license plates issued to a veteran with a qualifying disability must be inscribed with the international symbol of access, which is a diagram of a figure that resembles a wheelchair. A vehicle on which such ex prisoner of war or disabled veteran special license 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, other than the United States. (NRS 482.377)

Sections 1, 3 and 4 of this bill provide that a veteran who is eligible for Pearl Harbor, Purple Heart or Congressional Medal of Honor 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 plates, and that 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, other than the United States. **Section 2** of this bill provides that a veteran who is eligible for ex prisoner of war 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 plates.

Sections 5 and 6 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 8** of this bill provides that the special license plates will be issued not later than July 1, 2018, and earlier than that date if the Department of Motor Vehicles determines that it has sufficient resources to issue the plates before that time.

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

Section 1. NRS 482.3765 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.3765 1. A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, is entitled to specially designed license plates inscribed with the words "PEARL HARBOR VETERAN" or "PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR," at the option of the veteran, and a number of characters, including numbers and letters, as determined necessary by the Director.

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 any 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 be used only on a private passenger vehicle, a noncommercial truck or a motor home.

~~[3-]~~ 4. The Department shall issue specially designed license plates for persons qualified pursuant to this section who submit an application on a form prescribed by the Department and evidence of their status as a survivor *and, if applicable, evidence of disability* required by the Department.

~~[4-]~~ 5. *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 those collected through*



parking meters, charged by the State or any political subdivision or other public body within the State, other than the United States.

6. If, during a registration year, the holder of a set of special license plates issued pursuant to 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. The fee for a set of special license plates issued pursuant to this section is \$25, in addition to all other applicable registration and license fees and governmental services taxes. The annual fee for a renewal sticker for a set of special license plates issued pursuant to this section is \$5.

Sec. 2. NRS 482.377 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.377 1. A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who, as a result of his or her service:

(a) Has suffered a 100-percent service-connected disability and who receives compensation from the United States for the disability is entitled to specially designed license plates that must be inscribed with:

(1) The words "DISABLED VETERAN," "DISABLED FEMALE VETERAN" or "VETERAN WHO IS DISABLED," at the option of the veteran;

(2) The international symbol of access, which must comply with any applicable federal standards and must be white on a blue background; and

(3) A number of characters, including numbers and letters, as determined necessary by the Director.

(b) Has been captured and held prisoner by a military force of a foreign nation is entitled to specially designed license plates inscribed with the words "EX PRISONER OF WAR" and a number of characters, including numbers and letters, as determined necessary by the Director.

2. *A person who qualifies for special license plates pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1, 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 any 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 be used only on a private passenger vehicle, a noncommercial truck or a motor home.

~~[3.]~~ 4. The Department shall issue specially designed license plates for persons qualified pursuant to this section who submit an application on a form prescribed by the Department and evidence of disability, ~~[or]~~ former imprisonment *or both, as applicable*, required by the Department.

~~[4.]~~ 5. A vehicle on which license plates issued by the Department pursuant to this section are displayed is exempt from the payment of any parking fees, including those collected through parking meters, charged by the State or any political subdivision or other public body within the State, other than the United States.

~~[5.]~~ 6. If, during a registration year, the holder of a set of special license plates issued pursuant to 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.

Sec. 3. NRS 482.3775 is hereby amended to read as follows:

482.3775 1. A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who was awarded the Purple Heart is entitled to specially designed license plates which indicate that the veteran is a recipient of the Purple Heart.

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 any 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



1 issued pursuant to this section may be used only on a private
2 passenger vehicle, a noncommercial truck or a motor home.

3 ~~[3-]~~ 4. The Department shall issue specially designed license
4 plates for any person qualified pursuant to this section who submits
5 an application on a form prescribed by the Department and evidence
6 of his or her status as a recipient of the Purple Heart *and, if*
7 *applicable, evidence of disability* as required by the Department.
8 The Department may designate any appropriate colors for the
9 special plates.

10 ~~[4-]~~ 5. *A vehicle on which license plates issued by the*
11 *Department pursuant to subsection 2 are displayed is exempt from*
12 *the payment of any parking fees, including those collected through*
13 *parking meters, charged by the State or any political subdivision*
14 *or other public body within the State, other than the United States.*

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

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

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

25 ~~[5-]~~ 7. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no fee
26 in addition to the applicable registration and license fees and
27 governmental services taxes may be charged for the issuance or
28 renewal of a set of special license plates pursuant to this section. If
29 the special plates issued pursuant to this section are lost, stolen or
30 mutilated, the owner of the vehicle may secure a set of replacement
31 license plates from the Department for a fee of \$5.

32 **Sec. 4.** NRS 482.378 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 482.378 1. An owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of
34 this State and has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor
35 may, upon signed application on a form prescribed and furnished by
36 the Department, be issued license plates which indicate that he or
37 she is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. The
38 applicant shall comply with the motor vehicle laws of this State,
39 including the provisions of chapter 371 of NRS and the payment of
40 the registration fees required by this chapter, but no fee may be
41 charged under NRS 482.367.

42 2. *A person who qualifies for special license plates pursuant*
43 *to this section, has suffered a 100-percent service-connected*
44 *disability as a result of his or her service in the Armed Forces of*
45 *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 any applicable federal standards and must be white on a blue background.

3. Each person who is eligible for special license plates under this section may apply for two sets of plates. The second set of plates for an additional vehicle must have a different number than the first set of plates issued to the same applicant. The plates may be used only on a private passenger vehicle, a noncommercial truck or a motor home.

~~3.4~~ 4. *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 those collected through parking meters, charged by the State or any political subdivision or other public body within the State, other than the United States.*

5. The Department may adopt regulations governing the issuance of special license plates to recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Sec. 5. 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 **482.3765**, 482.377, **482.3775 or 482.378** 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 **482.3765**, 482.377, **482.3775 or 482.378** 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



1 off the highway without paying the required fee for the time during
2 which the vehicle is so parked.

3 **Sec. 6.** NRS 484B.467 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 484B.467 1. Any parking space designated for persons who
5 are handicapped must be indicated by a sign:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43 5. A person shall not park a vehicle in a space designated for
44 persons who are handicapped by a sign that meets the requirements



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1 of subsection 1, whether on public or privately owned property,
2 unless the person is eligible to do so and the vehicle displays:

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

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

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

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

13 (e) A special license plate or plates for a veteran with a
14 disability issued pursuant to NRS 482.3765, 482.377 H, 482.3775
15 or 482.378.

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

22 (a) The person is eligible to do so;

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 ➤ whether on public or privately owned property.

36 8. A person shall not use a plate, sticker or placard set forth in
37 subsection 5 to park in a space designated for persons who are
38 handicapped unless he or she is a person with a permanent
39 disability, disability of moderate duration or temporary disability, a
40 veteran with a disability or the driver of a vehicle in which any such
41 person is a passenger.

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

44 (a) Special license plate, or a special or temporary parking
45 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. 7. As soon as practicable after January 1, 2016, upon determining that sufficient resources are available to enable the Department of Motor Vehicles to carry out the amendatory provisions of this act, the Director of the Department shall notify the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau of that fact, and shall publish on the Internet website of the Department notice to the public of that fact.

Sec. 8. This act becomes effective:

1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of performing any preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

2. For all other purposes, on the earlier of:

(a) July 1, 2018; or

(b) The date on which the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to section 7 of this act, notifies the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau that sufficient resources are available to enable the Department to carry out the amendatory provisions of this act.

