

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 257

Introduced by Senator Bates

February 18, 2015

An act to amend Section 5157 of the Vehicle Code, relating to license plates.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 257, as amended, Bates. Vehicles: ~~specialized~~ Gold Star Family license plates.

Existing law establishes a specialized license plate program under which the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues specialized license plates on behalf of a sponsoring state agency that meets certain requirements. Existing law authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to sponsor a Gold Star Family specialized license plate program, which allows specified persons to apply for Gold Star Family license plates. Existing law requires that Gold Star Family license plates be issued in a sequential series.

This bill would authorize the DMV to issue personalized Gold Star Family license plates if the requester pays a \$49 personalization fee. The bill would direct the revenue generated from the personalization fee to be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Account within the State Transportation Fund until the DMV's upfront cost of implementing this program is covered. The bill would then direct the revenue generated from the personalization fee to be deposited into the Veterans Service Office Fund.

~~Existing law establishes a specialized license plate program under which the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues specialized license plates on behalf of a sponsoring state agency that meets certain~~

requirements. Under existing law, the DMV charges specified fees related to the issuance of those plates and deposits the fees, less the DMV's costs, in the Specialized License Plate Fund.

~~This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to that provision.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5157 of the Vehicle Code is amended to
2 read:

3 5157. (a) In addition to the regular fees for an original
4 registration or renewal of registration, the following additional
5 fees shall be paid for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the
6 specialized license plates:

7 (1) For the original issuance of the plates, fifty dollars (\$50).

8 (2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars
9 (\$40).

10 (3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars
11 (\$15).

12 (4) For each substitute replacement plate, thirty-five dollars
13 (\$35).

14 (5) In addition, for the issuance of environmental license plates,
15 as defined in Section 5103, with a specialized license plate design,
16 the additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108. The
17 additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108 shall be
18 deposited in the California Environmental License Plate Fund.

19 (b) (1) The Gold Star Family specialized license plate program
20 as provided in subdivision (d) of Section 5156 shall not be subject
21 to the fees specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (5) of subdivision
22 (a) and shall only be issued in a sequential series.

23 (2) (A) *Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Gold Star Family*
24 *specialized license plates may be personalized if the family member*
25 *pays forty-nine dollars (\$49) for the personalization of the plates.*
26 *The plates shall not be subject to the fees specified in paragraphs*
27 *(1), (2), and (5) of subdivision (a).*

28 (B) *The revenue from the personalization fee shall be deposited*
29 *into the Motor Vehicle Account within the State Transportation*
30 *Fund until sufficient funds have been deposited to cover the*

1 *Department of Motor Vehicles' upfront cost of implementing the*
2 *personalization program. Upon the determination by the*
3 *department that the upfront costs are recovered, all revenue from*
4 *the personalization fee shall be deposited into the Veterans Service*
5 *Office Fund.*

6 (c) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), and
7 after deducting its administrative costs under this section, the
8 department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from the
9 issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of the specialized
10 license plates in the Specialized License Plate Fund, which is
11 hereby established in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by
12 the Legislature, the moneys in that fund shall be allocated to each
13 sponsoring agency in proportion to the amount in the fund that is
14 attributable to the agency's specialized license plate program.
15 Except as authorized under Section 5159, the sponsoring agency
16 shall expend all funds received under this section exclusively for
17 projects and programs that promote the state agency's official
18 policy, mission, or work.

19 (d) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs may actively request
20 and receive donations for the Gold Star Family License Plate
21 Account which is hereby created in the Specialized License Plate
22 Fund and which may consist of donations from public and private
23 entities. Earnings generated by the Gold Star Family License Plate
24 Account shall be retained by the account.

25 (2) Upon the determination of the department that there are
26 sufficient funds in the Gold Star Family License Plate Account
27 for this purpose, moneys in the Gold Star Family License Plate
28 Account shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,
29 to the department for the necessary administrative costs of
30 establishing the Gold Star Family specialized license plate program.