

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 2, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

## SENATE BILL

No. 257

---

**Introduced by Senator Bates**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Lara)**

February 18, 2015

---

An act to ~~amend~~ *amend, repeal, and add* Section 5157 of the Vehicle Code, relating to license plates.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 257, as amended, Bates. Vehicles: 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. *Existing law requires an applicant to pay specified environmental fees when applying for a specialized environmental license plate.*

This bill ~~would~~ *would, commencing July 1, 2016,* authorize the DMV to issue personalized Gold Star Family license plates if the requester pays a ~~\$49 personalization fee~~. *\$48 personalization fee and specified environmental fees.* The bill would direct the revenue generated from the personalization fee *and the environmental fees* 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 and the environmental fees to be deposited into the Veterans Service Office Fund.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: 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) The Gold Star Family specialized license plate program as  
20     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     (c) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), and  
24     after deducting its administrative costs under this section, the  
25     department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from the  
26     issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of the specialized  
27     license plates in the Specialized License Plate Fund, which is  
28     hereby established in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by  
29     the Legislature, the moneys in that fund shall be allocated to each  
30     sponsoring agency, in proportion to the amount in the fund that is  
31     attributable to the agency's specialized license plate program.  
32     Except as authorized under Section 5159, the sponsoring agency  
33     shall expend all funds received under this section exclusively for

1 projects and programs that promote the state agency's official  
2 policy, mission, or work.

3 (d) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs may actively request  
4 and receive donations for the Gold Star Family License Plate  
5 Account which is hereby created in the Specialized License Plate  
6 Fund and which may consist of donations from public and private  
7 entities. Earnings generated by the Gold Star Family License Plate  
8 Account shall be retained by the account.

9 (2) Upon the determination of the department that there are  
10 sufficient funds in the Gold Star Family License Plate Account  
11 for this purpose, moneys in the Gold Star Family License Plate  
12 Account shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,  
13 to the department for the necessary administrative costs of  
14 establishing the Gold Star Family specialized license plate program.

15 (e) *This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and,*  
16 *as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,*  
17 *that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or*  
18 *extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.*

19 SEC. 2. Section 5157 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

20 5157. (a) *In addition to the regular fees for an original*  
21 *registration or renewal of registration, the following additional*  
22 *fees shall be paid for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the*  
23 *specialized license plates:*

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

25 (2) *For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars*  
26 *(\$40).*

27 (3) *For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars*  
28 *(\$15).*

29 (4) *For each substitute replacement plate, thirty-five dollars*  
30 *(\$35).*

31 (5) *In addition, for the issuance of environmental license plates,*  
32 *as defined in Section 5103, with a specialized license plate design,*  
33 *the additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108. The*  
34 *additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108 shall be*  
35 *deposited in the California Environmental License Plate Fund.*

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

1 (2) (A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Gold Star Family  
2 specialized license plates may be personalized if the family member  
3 pays forty-eight dollars (\$48) for the personalization of the plates.  
4 The plates shall not be subject to the fees specified in paragraphs  
5 (1), (2), and (5) of subdivision (a).

6 (B) The revenue from the personalization fee shall be deposited  
7 into the Motor Vehicle Account within the State Transportation  
8 Fund until sufficient funds have been deposited to cover the  
9 Department of Motor Vehicles' upfront cost of implementing the  
10 personalization program. Upon the determination by the  
11 department that the upfront costs are recovered, all revenue from  
12 the personalization fee shall be deposited into the Veterans Service  
13 Office Fund.

14 (C) Personalized Gold Star Family specialized license plates  
15 shall be subject to the additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106  
16 and 5108. The revenue from these additional fees shall be deposited  
17 into the Motor Vehicle Account within the State Transportation  
18 Fund until sufficient funds have been deposited to cover the  
19 Department of Motor Vehicles' upfront cost of implementing the  
20 personalization program. Upon the determination by the  
21 department that the upfront costs are recovered, all revenue from  
22 these additional fees shall be deposited into the Veterans Service  
23 Office Fund.

24 (c) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), and  
25 after deducting its administrative costs under this section, the  
26 department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from the  
27 issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of the specialized  
28 license plates in the Specialized License Plate Fund, which is  
29 hereby established in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by  
30 the Legislature, the moneys in that fund shall be allocated to each  
31 sponsoring agency in proportion to the amount in the fund that is  
32 attributable to the agency's specialized license plate program.  
33 Except as authorized under Section 5159, the sponsoring agency  
34 shall expend all funds received under this section exclusively for  
35 projects and programs that promote the state agency's official  
36 policy, mission, or work.

37 (d) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs may actively request  
38 and receive donations for the Gold Star Family License Plate  
39 Account which is hereby created in the Specialized License Plate  
40 Fund and which may consist of donations from public and private

1 *entities. Earnings generated by the Gold Star Family License Plate*  
2 *Account shall be retained by the account.*

3 (2) *Upon the determination of the department that there are*  
4 *sufficient funds in the Gold Star Family License Plate Account for*  
5 *this purpose, moneys in the Gold Star Family License Plate*  
6 *Account shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,*  
7 *to the department for the necessary administrative costs of*  
8 *establishing the Gold Star Family specialized license plate*  
9 *program.*

10 (e) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2016.*

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

13 ~~5157. (a) In addition to the regular fees for an original~~  
14 ~~registration or renewal of registration, the following additional~~  
15 ~~fees shall be paid for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the~~  
16 ~~specialized license plates:~~

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

18 ~~(2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars~~  
19 ~~(\$40).~~

20 ~~(3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars~~  
21 ~~(\$15).~~

22 ~~(4) For each substitute replacement plate, thirty-five dollars~~  
23 ~~(\$35).~~

24 ~~(5) In addition, for the issuance of environmental license plates,~~  
25 ~~as defined in Section 5103, with a specialized license plate design,~~  
26 ~~the additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108. The~~  
27 ~~additional fees prescribed in Sections 5106 and 5108 shall be~~  
28 ~~deposited in the California Environmental License Plate Fund.~~

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

33 ~~(2) (A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Gold Star Family~~  
34 ~~specialized license plates may be personalized if the family member~~  
35 ~~pays forty-nine dollars (\$49) for the personalization of the plates.~~  
36 ~~The plates shall not be subject to the fees specified in paragraphs~~  
37 ~~(1), (2), and (5) of subdivision (a).~~

38 ~~(B) The revenue from the personalization fee shall be deposited~~  
39 ~~into the Motor Vehicle Account within the State Transportation~~  
40 ~~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 department  
3 that the upfront costs are recovered, all revenue from the  
4 personalization fee shall be deposited into the Veterans Service  
5 Office Fund.

6 (e) ~~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.~~