

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 17, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 2, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 257**

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

February 18, 2015

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An act to 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 imposes additional fees for the issuance and renewal of specialized license plates, but exempts Gold Star Family license plates from these fees.* Existing law also requires an applicant to pay specified environmental fees when applying for a specialized environmental license ~~plate~~. *plate, and directs the DMV to deposit this revenue in the California Environmental License Plate Fund.*

This bill would, commencing ~~July 1, 2016~~, *authorize January 1, 2017*, require the DMV to issue ~~personalized~~ Gold Star Family license plates

~~as environmental license plates if the requester pays a \$48 personalization fee and specified the above-described environmental license plate fees and specialized license plate fees.~~ The bill would direct the revenue generated from ~~the personalization fee and the environmental license plate 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 this 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

1 issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of the specialized  
2 license plates in the Specialized License Plate Fund, which is  
3 hereby established in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by  
4 the Legislature, the moneys in that fund shall be allocated to each  
5 sponsoring agency, in proportion to the amount in the fund that is  
6 attributable to the agency's specialized license plate program.  
7 Except as authorized under Section 5159, the sponsoring agency  
8 shall expend all funds received under this section exclusively for  
9 projects and programs that promote the state agency's official  
10 policy, mission, or work.

11 (d) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs may actively request  
12 and receive donations for the Gold Star Family License Plate  
13 Account which is hereby created in the Specialized License Plate  
14 Fund and which may consist of donations from public and private  
15 entities. Earnings generated by the Gold Star Family License Plate  
16 Account shall be retained by the account.

17 (2) Upon the determination of the department that there are  
18 sufficient funds in the Gold Star Family License Plate Account  
19 for this purpose, moneys in the Gold Star Family License Plate  
20 Account shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,  
21 to the department for the necessary administrative costs of  
22 establishing the Gold Star Family specialized license plate program.

23 ~~(e) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and,~~  
24 ~~as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,~~  
25 ~~that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or~~  
26 ~~extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.~~

27 *(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017,*  
28 *and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that*  
29 *is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.*

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

31 5157. (a) In addition to the regular fees for an original  
32 registration or renewal of registration, the following additional  
33 fees shall be paid for the issuance, renewal, or transfer of the  
34 specialized license plates:

- 35 (1) For the original issuance of the plates, fifty dollars (\$50).
- 36 (2) For a renewal of registration with the plates, forty dollars
- 37 (\$40).
- 38 (3) For transfer of the plates to another vehicle, fifteen dollars
- 39 (\$15).

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

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

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

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

~~(B) The revenue from the personalization fee~~

~~(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), the revenue from Gold Star Family specialized license plates issued as environmental license plates shall be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Account within the State Transportation Fund until sufficient funds have been deposited to cover the Department of Motor Vehicles' upfront cost of implementing the personalization program. Upon the determination by the department that the upfront costs are recovered, all revenue from the personalization fee this revenue shall be deposited into the Veterans Service Office Fund. Fund, created by Section 972.2 of the Military and Veterans Code.~~

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

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a), and after deducting its administrative costs under this section, the department shall deposit the additional revenue derived from the

1 issuance, renewal, transfer, and substitution of the specialized  
2 license plates in the Specialized License Plate Fund, which is  
3 hereby established in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by  
4 the Legislature, the moneys in that fund shall be allocated to each  
5 sponsoring agency in proportion to the amount in the fund that is  
6 attributable to the agency's specialized license plate program.  
7 Except as authorized under Section 5159, the sponsoring agency  
8 shall expend all funds received under this section exclusively for  
9 projects and programs that promote the state agency's official  
10 policy, mission, or work.

11 (d) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs may actively request  
12 and receive donations for the Gold Star Family License Plate  
13 Account which is hereby created in the Specialized License Plate  
14 Fund and which may consist of donations from public and private  
15 entities. Earnings generated by the Gold Star Family License Plate  
16 Account shall be retained by the account.

17 (2) Upon the determination of the department that there are  
18 sufficient funds in the Gold Star Family License Plate Account  
19 for this purpose, moneys in the Gold Star Family License Plate  
20 Account shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,  
21 to the department for the necessary administrative costs of  
22 establishing the Gold Star Family specialized license plate program.

23 (e) This section shall become operative on ~~July 1, 2016~~. *January*  
24 *1, 2017*.