

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 115

BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MTR VEHICLE/LICEN PLATES: Creates the "Purple Heart Disabled Veteran" special prestige license plate

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:490.32, relative to motor vehicle license plates; to create a military honor  
3 license plate for "Purple Heart" recipients that have a service-connected disability  
4 of fifty percent or more; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 47:490.32 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §490.32. Military honor license plates for "Purple Heart" disabled veterans

8 A. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to "Purple Heart"  
9 recipients that have a service-connected disability of fifty percent or more and who  
10 are residents of this state.

11 B. Upon application of a "Purple Heart" recipient who is also a qualified  
12 disabled veteran, the secretary shall issue a military honor license plate to be used  
13 in lieu of a regular motor vehicle registration plate on passenger cars, trucks,  
14 recreational vehicles, motorcycles, and vans. The license plate shall bear a number  
15 prefixed by "DV". "Purple Heart Disabled Veteran" shall be printed under the  
16 number.

17 C. The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall  
18 change the design of the military honor license plate for "Purple Heart" recipients  
19 who are disabled veterans by enlarging the size of the "Purple Heart" medal on the  
20 license plate.

1           D. No fee shall be charged for the license plates authorized by this Section,  
2           and such plates shall not be subject to the renewal requirements applicable to  
3           standard plates.

4           E. The secretary shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this  
5           Section, including but not limited to rules governing the transfer of the license plates  
6           from one vehicle to another and the disposition of such license plates.

7           F.(1) Any applicant who qualifies for the military honor license plate  
8           authorized by this Section may be issued a plate for each vehicle registered in the  
9           applicant's name.

10           (2) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, each military honor  
11           license plate issued pursuant to this Section shall be returned to the secretary upon  
12           the death of the person to whom the plate was issued. A surviving spouse of a  
13           person to whom a license plate was issued pursuant to this Section may retain a  
14           license plate issued pursuant to this Section, provided the surviving spouse has not  
15           remarried and provided the surviving spouse applies to the secretary for a transfer  
16           of the license plate to the surviving spouse. A military honor license plate  
17           transferred pursuant to this Paragraph to a surviving spouse shall be returned to the  
18           secretary upon the death or remarriage of the surviving spouse. In the event that a  
19           "Purple Heart" disabled veteran holds more than one military honor license plate at  
20           the time the "Purple Heart" disabled veteran dies, the surviving spouse may  
21           determine which of the license plates the surviving spouse wishes to retain.

22           (3) The secretary shall also issue a hang tag as provided in R.S.  
23           47:463.4(B)(1), which bears the international symbol of accessibility, to any disabled  
24           veteran who has or is issued such a plate and who requests the hang tag. No fee shall  
25           be charged for the hang tag, and it shall be exempt from renewal requirements  
26           applicable to hang tags issued pursuant to R.S. 47:463.4. However, any lost,  
27           destroyed, or mutilated hang tags shall be replaced according to the provisions of  
28           R.S. 47:463.4(C), including payment of the reissuance fee. A person using the hang

1        tag in a vehicle with a disabled veteran license plate is not required to obtain or  
2        possess a mobility impairment driver's license or identification card.

3        Section 2. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor  
4        vehicles, is hereby directed to create the special prestige license plate when the applicable  
5        statutory provisions are met and their system is updated to accommodate the creation of new  
6        plates.

#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 115 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Wright

**Abstract:** Creates the "Purple Heart Disabled Veteran" special prestige license plate.

Proposed law creates the "Purple Heart" Disabled Veteran license plate for recipients of the "Purple Heart" that have a service-connected disability and reside in this state.

Proposed law provides for the creation, qualification, issuance, design, distribution, transfer, and rule promulgation related to the speciality plate.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to develop and adopt rules relative to the implementation of the speciality plate including the transfer of the license plate to the surviving spouse, the disposition of the speciality plate, and the issuance of a hang tag bearing the international symbol of accessibility.

Proposed law requires the office of motor vehicles to create the special prestige plate provided for in proposed law when the applicable statutory provisions are met and their system is updated to accommodate new plates.

(Adds R.S. 47:490.32)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Require the Dept. of Public Safety, office of motor vehicles, to create the special prestige license plate provided for in this instrument when the applicable statutory provisions are met and their system is updated to accommodate the creation of new plates.