

1 SB158
2 165140-1
3 By Senator Holley
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs
5 First Read: 05-MAR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, any member of the
9 immediate family of a person who died while on
10 active duty in any branch of the United States
11 military, upon payment of the regular license fees
12 and taxes for motor vehicles and an additional fee
13 of three dollars, may receive an "Alabama Gold Star
14 Family" distinctive license tag.

15 This bill would provide that an immediate
16 family member of a person who died while on active
17 duty in any branch of the United States military
18 could receive one distinctive "Alabama Gold Star
19 Family" license tag at no additional cost and would
20 be exempt from payment of the motor vehicle
21 registration fee for that vehicle.

22
23 A BILL
24 TO BE ENTITLED
25 AN ACT
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1 Relating to the "Alabama Gold Star Family"
2 distinctive license tag; to amend Sections 32-6-630 and
3 40-12-244, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that a person who
4 qualifies for the "Alabama Gold Star Family" license tag would
5 receive one tag at no additional cost and would be exempt from
6 payment of the motor vehicle registration fee for that
7 vehicle.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

9 Section 1. Sections 32-6-630 and 40-12-244, Code of
10 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

11 "§32-6-630.

12 "(a) Notwithstanding Sections 32-6-64, 32-6-67, and
13 32-6-68, a distinctive license plate category shall be
14 established entitled "Alabama Gold Star Family." The
15 distinctive plates shall be issued, printed, and processed in
16 the same manner as other distinctive plates provided for in
17 this chapter.

18 "(b) Any member of the immediate family of a person
19 who died while on active duty of any branch of the United
20 States military may ~~apply~~ receive one "Alabama Gold State
21 Family" distinctive tag at no cost or registration fee for the
22 tag by applying to the judge of probate or other county
23 license plate issuing official, present documentation pursuant
24 to subsection (c), ~~pay~~ and paying the required motor vehicle
25 license ~~fees and taxes~~ as provided by law for ~~license plates~~
26 ~~for~~ private passenger, pickup trucks, or pleasure motor

1 vehicles, and pay an additional fee of three dollars (\$3) for
2 the initial issuance of the plate and be issued the "Alabama
3 Gold Star Family" distinctive license plate. Payment of
4 required license fees and ad valorem taxes for the years
5 during which a new tag or plate is not issued shall be
6 evidenced as provided for in Section 32-6-63. Each family
7 member shall be entitled to receive only one distinctive tag
8 at no cost and shall be exempt from the payment of the motor
9 vehicle registration fee for only one vehicle. Additional
10 distinctive tags may be purchased upon payment of regular
11 required motor vehicle fees and taxes and an additional fee of
12 three dollars (\$3) for the distinctive tag.

13 "(c) The following documents shall be presented to
14 the judge of probate or other county license plate issuing
15 official to receive the "Alabama Gold Star Family" distinctive
16 license plate:

17 "(1) DD Form 2064 - Overseas Death Certificate or
18 prior era Department of Defense death certificate; or

19 "(2) DD Form 1300 - Report of Casualty.

20 "(3) In the event that the applicant is not
21 identified as the next of kin on one of the documents listed
22 in subsection (c) (1) and (2), the applicant must also submit
23 a notarized affidavit obtained from the Alabama Gold Star
24 Family Organization, certifying applicant's relationship to
25 the deceased service member.

1 "(d) The "Alabama Gold Star Family" distinctive
2 license plate shall be designed by the Alabama Gold Star
3 Family Organization and approved by the Department of Revenue.

4 "(e) As used in this section, the phrase member of
5 the immediate family shall mean all of the following:

6 "(1) A spouse.

7 "(2) A parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent.

8 "(3) A foster parent in loco parentis.

9 "(4) A sibling, to include whole or half-blood, or
10 by adoption.

11 "(5) A child, including those by adoption, or a
12 stepchild.

13 "(6) Grandparent or other legal guardian.

14 "(7) Any other immediate family members designated
15 as next of kin by the Department of Defense.

16 "(f) The Department of Revenue may promulgate any
17 rules necessary to administer the provisions of this section.

18 "§40-12-244.

19 "There shall be exempt from the operation of the
20 privilege or license tax and registration fee now or
21 hereinafter to be levied on automobiles and motor vehicles by
22 the State of Alabama one passenger vehicle owned by any of the
23 following:

24 "(1)a. An active member of the Alabama National
25 Guard or the Alabama State Guard, when organized in lieu of
26 the National Guard or for any service-connected disabled

1 veteran. The exemption for only one vehicle extends only to
2 distinctive National Guard or service-connected disabled
3 veterans' license tags and shall be claimed upon presentation
4 of proper identification on forms prescribed by the Adjutant
5 General. Active members of the National Guard may obtain
6 additional distinctive license tags for other passenger
7 vehicles which they own by paying the regular privilege or
8 license tax provided by law.

9 "b. A retired member of the Alabama National Guard
10 with 20 years or more service. The exemption for only one
11 vehicle extends only to distinctive National Guard license
12 tags and shall be claimed upon presentation of proper
13 identification on forms prescribed by the Adjutant General.
14 Retired members of the Alabama National Guard may obtain
15 additional distinctive license tags for passenger vehicles
16 which they own upon presentation and proper identification on
17 forms prescribed by the Adjutant General and by paying the
18 regular privilege or license tax and registration fee as
19 provided by law.

20 "(2) An officer, warrant officer, or enlisted person
21 serving as an active member of any United States armed forces
22 reserve organization or any service-connected disabled
23 veterans who were residents of Alabama at the time of entering
24 the service and who are still residents of Alabama at the time
25 the exemption is claimed. The exemption shall be claimed by
26 presentation of proper identification and proof of residence

1 requirements on forms prescribed by the state Department of
2 Revenue.

3 "(3) A member of a volunteer rescue squad.

4 "(4) The Civil Air Patrol; including those vehicles
5 owned by the national headquarters and those owned by the
6 Alabama wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

7 "(5) A volunteer firefighter who is a resident of
8 Alabama and who is entitled to the distinctive firefighter tag
9 issued pursuant to Section 32-6-272. The exemption for one
10 vehicle extends only to the firefighter distinctive license
11 plate.

12 "(6) A recipient of the "Alabama Gold Star Family"
13 distinctive tag, with respect to the registration fee only.
14 The exemption from the registration fee extends only to one
15 vehicle for each family member."

16 Section 2. This act shall become effective October
17 1, 2015.