

1 HB195
2 209158-1
3 By Representative Brown (K)
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21
6 PFD: 01/28/2021

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, an eligible military veteran may be issued a motor vehicle distinctive license tag in recognition of his or her military service.

This bill would expand eligibility for a distinctive license tag to include honorably discharged veterans of the Cold War serving at any time between September 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Sections 32-6-350 and 32-6-350.1, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the issuance of a distinctive license tag pursuant to the Alabama Veteran Tag Program; to expand eligibility for a distinctive license tag to include certain honorably discharged veterans of the Cold War.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Sections 32-6-350 and 32-6-350.1, Code of
2 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

3 "§32-6-350.

4 "(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to
5 establish an Alabama Veteran Tag Program to recognize certain
6 veterans.

7 "(b) The owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident
8 of this state and who is an eligible veteran pursuant to
9 subsection (c) of this section may be issued a distinctive
10 license tag pursuant to this division. The veteran shall make
11 application to the judge of probate or commissioner of
12 licenses, comply with state motor vehicle laws relating to
13 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, pay the regular
14 license fee for a tag as provided by law for a private
15 passenger or pleasure motor vehicle, and pay an additional fee
16 of three dollars (\$3) for the initial issuance of the tag
17 except a Vietnam veteran's tag. In the case of a Vietnam
18 veteran's tag, the additional fee for the initial issuance of
19 the tag shall be six dollars (\$6), three dollars (\$3) of which
20 shall be distributed to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.,
21 Alabama State Council, to be used to assist Vietnam veterans.
22 For each renewal year, an additional fee of three dollars (\$3)
23 shall be paid for the Vietnam's veteran tag. The additional
24 fee of three dollars (\$3) shall be distributed to the Vietnam
25 Veterans of America, Inc., Alabama State Council, to be used
26 to assist Vietnam veterans.

1 "(c) The distinctive license tags in the Alabama
2 Veteran Tag Program shall include veterans of the United
3 States Armed Forces exposed to dangerous levels of radiation
4 due to the atomic bomb and weapon testing from 1944 to 1962,
5 Vietnam veterans, Korean War veterans, World War II veterans,
6 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, veterans of Desert
7 Shield/Desert Storm, veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, ~~and~~
8 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan, and
9 veterans of the Cold War serving at any time between September
10 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991. The distinctive tags shall be
11 issued, printed, and processed in the same manner as other
12 distinctive tags as provided in this chapter. The payment of
13 the required motor vehicle license fees and taxes when
14 required by this section for a year during which a new vehicle
15 license plate is not issued shall be evidenced as provided in
16 Section 32-6-63.

17 "(d) The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Alabama
18 State Council for the Vietnam veterans distinctive tag, and
19 the Department of Veterans' Affairs for the other distinctive
20 veteran tags shall each respectively design or have designed
21 the distinctive veteran tags, subject to approval by the
22 Commissioner of Revenue and compliance with all laws and
23 regulations. An applicant for a Vietnam veteran tag shall be a
24 Vietnam era veteran and the local veteran's affairs officer in
25 the county in which application is made for the distinctive
26 tag shall certify all Vietnam veterans eligible for a Vietnam
27 veteran distinctive tag. An applicant for other veteran

1 distinctive tags shall be a veteran of the appropriate
2 conflict or otherwise qualify for a veteran tag as authorized
3 by this section, and shall be certified as eligible by the
4 Department of Veterans' Affairs.

5 "(e) The distinctive license tags shall not be
6 transferable between motor vehicle owners and shall be subject
7 to the same provisions of law related to the transferring of
8 distinctive motor vehicle tags provided in Section 32-6-154 or
9 as otherwise provided by law or ~~regulation~~ rule of the
10 Department of Revenue.

11 "§32-6-350.1.

12 "(a) Upon payment of an annual fee of fifty dollars
13 (\$50), which shall not be prorated, any Vietnam veteran, Pearl
14 Harbor survivor veteran, World War II veteran, Korean War
15 veteran, Battle of the Bulge veteran, Desert Shield/Desert
16 Storm veteran, veteran of the Armed Forces exposed to
17 dangerous levels of radiation due to the atomic bomb and
18 weapons testing from 1944 to 1962, Operation Iraqi Freedom
19 veteran, ~~or~~ Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan veteran, or
20 veteran of the Cold War serving at any time between September
21 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991, eligible to be issued
22 distinctive license tags pursuant to law, shall be issued
23 personalized license tags upon which, in lieu of the numbers
24 and symbols on the distinctive veteran license tags or plates,
25 shall be inscribed with special letters, figures, numbers, or
26 other marks, emblems, symbols, or badges of distinction or
27 personal prestige, or a combination of these, as are approved

1 for and assigned to the application by the Department of
2 Revenue.

3 "(b) The personalized license tags provided for in
4 this section shall be issued, printed, processed, and renewed
5 in the same manner as other personalized tags in Section
6 32-6-150.

7 "(c) Fees collected pursuant to this section shall
8 be transmitted timely to the state Comptroller. After payment
9 to the Department of Corrections for its costs for
10 manufacturing and the administration of the personalized
11 veteran license plates provided for by subsection (a), with
12 the exception of fees collected for Vietnam veteran
13 personalized plates, the entire balance of fees shall be
14 transferred by the state Comptroller into the Alabama
15 Veteran's Assistance Fund in the State Treasury. For each
16 Vietnam veteran personalized plate, after payment to the
17 Department of Corrections for its costs for manufacturing and
18 the administration of the personalized Vietnam veteran license
19 plates, twenty dollars (\$20) for each plate sold shall be
20 distributed to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Alabama
21 State Council, to be used to assist Vietnam veterans, and the
22 remaining balance shall be transferred by the state
23 Comptroller into the Alabama Veteran's Assistance Fund in the
24 State Treasury.

25 "(d) Fees paid pursuant to this section are a
26 charitable contribution from the purchaser to the Alabama
27 Veteran's Assistance Fund.

1 "(e) This section shall not affect the purchase of
2 any veteran's tag that is not personalized.

3 "(f) License tags issued pursuant to this section
4 shall be subject to the legislative oversight committee
5 pursuant to Section 32-6-67."

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
7 first day of the third month following its passage and
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.