

HB554 INTRODUCED



1 HB554
2 DG7YEHT-1
3 By Representative Givens
4 RFD: Military and Veterans Affairs
5 First Read: 09-Apr-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish a distinctive license plate for military combat action and would establish eligibility for individuals who participated in active duty combat action while serving in the United States Armed Forces, and received a combat medal or combat badge.

This bill would also provide a criminal penalty for anyone who falsely obtains a distinctive military combat action special license plate.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to motor vehicle registrations and license plates; to add Section 32-6-354 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to establish a combat action special license plate; and to provide a criminal penalty for falsely obtaining a military combat action special license plate.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-6-354 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§32-6-354



HB554 INTRODUCED

29 (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the
30 contrary, a distinctive license plate category shall be
31 established for motor vehicle owners who served in a component
32 of the United States Armed Forces and received the Combat
33 Action Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Action Badge,
34 Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Medal, or Air Force Combat
35 Action Medal. The distinctive license plates shall be issued,
36 printed, and processed in the same manner as other distinctive
37 tags as provided in this chapter. The eligible U.S. service
38 member shall make application to the judge of probate or other
39 county license plate issuing official in his or her county of
40 residence and shall present to the county license plate
41 issuing official one of the following documents, medals, or
42 awards as proof of eligibility:

43 (1) A DD Form 214 stating that the service member
44 served in a combat theater and received awards or ribbons that
45 indicate combat experience.

46 (2) A copy of the certificate which accompanied the
47 service medal or ribbon signifying the participation of the
48 service member in the combat action.

49 (3) The combat action ribbon, combat infantry badge,
50 combat action badge, combat medical badge, combat action
51 medal, or air force combat action medal.

52 (b) When the service member presents satisfactory proof
53 to the county license plate issuing official of his or her
54 combat experience, the service member shall be issued the
55 requested number of distinctive license plates upon the
56 payment of the regular license fee for the plates, as provided



HB554 INTRODUCED

85 Air Force"; or

86 b. U.S. Space Force Delta logo, "U.S. Space Force."

87 (c) The designation will be placed to the left of the
88 plate identification number space and underneath the proper
89 branch insignia logo for each respective award or medal.

90 (d) The plate shall indicate in bold print at the
91 center bottom of the plate space under the numbering in bright
92 white, "COMBAT VETERAN."

93 (e) This section does not disqualify disabled veterans
94 who are eligible under the current guidelines to have the
95 letters "DV" placed under the combat insignia in smaller
96 print.

97 (f) The distinctive plate may not be personalized.

98 (g) The distinctive license plate shall not be
99 transferred between motor vehicle owners and shall be subject
100 to the same provisions of law related to the transferring of
101 distinctive motor vehicle license plates provided in Section
102 32-6-154 or as otherwise provided by law or rule of the
103 Department of Revenue.

104 (h) Any individual who is proven to have falsely
105 obtained or falsely certified an individual to obtain a combat
106 action distinctive license plate issued under this section
107 shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

108 (i) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules to
109 administer this section.

110 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
111 1, 2025.