

# HB651 INTRODUCED



1 HB651  
2 I3LU3W6-1  
3 By Representatives Yarbrough, Oliver  
4 RFD: Military and Veterans' Affairs  
5 First Read: 31-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, an individual who qualifies for a military, veteran, or gold star family distinctive license plate may be required to recertify his or her eligibility every five years.

This bill would exempt individuals whose qualifying status is permanent from being required to recertify their eligibility every five years for a military, veteran, or gold star family distinctive license plate.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to distinctive license plates; to amend Section 32-6-64, Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt individuals who qualify for military, veteran, or gold star family distinctive license plates from recertification in certain circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-6-64, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§32-6-64



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29 (a) (1) The design of license plates, including all  
30 emblems, slogans, symbols, or characters appearing on the  
31 plates, shall be by rule as adopted by the Commissioner of  
32 Revenue, and as otherwise specified by law. The face of the  
33 license plate to be displayed shall be fully treated with a  
34 reflective material ~~which~~that will increase the nighttime  
35 visibility and legibility of the plate.

36 (2) Characters on the license plate which designate the  
37 county of issuance shall be numeric, and all numerals on the  
38 license plates shall be no smaller than two and three-fourths  
39 inches in height. The following numbering scheme shall be  
40 used:

41 a. Jefferson County, 1; Mobile County, 2; Montgomery  
42 County, 3.

43 b. All other counties shall be ranked alphabetically  
44 and assigned consecutive numbers beginning with 4 and  
45 concluding with 67.

46 c. The Department of Revenue shall be responsible for  
47 the numbering of distinctive license plates and shall  
48 establish a system to minimize duplication of license plate  
49 numbers. License plates that ~~shall be~~are approved for  
50 manufacture under subsection (b) shall be numbered or  
51 personalized.

52 (b) The sponsoring organization of any new or reissued  
53 distinctive license plate that is not of an in-state college  
54 or in-state university as provided in ~~subsection (b) of~~  
55 Section 32-6-150 (b), or the Alabama Gold Star Family license  
56 plate as provided in Section 32-6-630 or a military or veteran



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57 related category shall assure a minimum quantity of 250  
58 registrations in order for the proposed plate to qualify for  
59 production consideration by the legislative oversight  
60 committee under the provisions of Section 32-6-67.

61 (1) The procedure to assure the quantity minimum for a  
62 distinctive license plate shall be as follows:

63 a. The sponsoring organization shall apply to the  
64 Department of Revenue for approval for the proposed  
65 distinctive license plate from the legislative oversight  
66 committee. A sponsoring organization shall be limited to one  
67 distinctive license plate design per application. At the time  
68 of application, and upon payment of the application fee  
69 required in paragraph b., if applicable, the sponsoring  
70 organization shall submit a design for the plate or logo for  
71 the quantity class being applied for as described below:

72 1. Quantity Class 1 (250 to 999 registrations). A new  
73 distinctive license plate category, or an existing distinctive  
74 license plate to be reissued, in which registrations are  
75 estimated to be at least 250, but less than 1,000, shall be in  
76 conformity with the design approved by the legislative  
77 oversight committee for license plates in this quantity class.  
78 This plate shall include a space designated on the left side  
79 of the license plate, not exceeding two and one-half inches in  
80 width and height, in which an appropriate emblem, slogan, or  
81 logo design may be applied to represent the organization for  
82 whom the distinctive license plate is issued. Each proposed  
83 emblem, slogan, symbol, or logo shall be subject to the  
84 approval of the legislative oversight committee.



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85           2. Quantity Class 2 (1,000 or greater registrations).  
86 This quantity class may use the logo system described for  
87 Quantity Class 1, or may use a unique design for the entire  
88 plate which is approved by the legislative oversight committee  
89 and meets all other design and manufacture requirements of  
90 Alabama law.

91           b. Effective January 1, 2022, each sponsoring  
92 organization shall submit an application fee equal to the cost  
93 of producing the distinctive license plate template not to  
94 exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) at the time the initial  
95 application is made, the funds of which shall be distributed  
96 by the Comptroller to the Department of Corrections to cover  
97 the costs of producing the template of the distinctive license  
98 plate for the sponsoring organization. On or before October 1,  
99 2021, and by each October 1 thereafter, the Department of  
100 Corrections shall certify the cost of production to the  
101 legislative oversight committee for the subsequent calendar  
102 year.

103           c. After the legislative oversight committee approval  
104 and notification to the Department of Revenue, the department  
105 shall also coordinate with the Comptroller to establish  
106 funding procedures for depositing and maintaining monies held  
107 pending issuance of the new category of license plates.

108           d. Each ~~person~~individual desiring to register a vehicle  
109 in the new category shall make application and shall remit, as  
110 a commitment to purchase, the additional fee associated with  
111 the license plate category in a manner as prescribed by rule  
112 of the Commissioner of Revenue. Any credit card processing fee



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113 associated with the transaction shall be paid by the  
114 ~~person~~individual making the commitment to purchase the  
115 distinctive license plate and shall be nonrefundable.

116 e. The Department of Revenue shall deduct from the  
117 additional fee and retain a two and one-half percent  
118 commission. The balance shall be forwarded to the Comptroller  
119 to be retained in escrow, until such time as the revenue  
120 received is equal to or greater than the minimum amount  
121 required to issue license plates in that category. If, after  
122 one year from the date of notification of approval by the  
123 legislative oversight committee, the number of subscribers for  
124 a category fails to reach 250 for Quantity Class 1, or fails  
125 to reach 1,000 for Quantity Class 2, the Comptroller shall pay  
126 the money in escrow to the sponsoring organization and no  
127 further consideration for production of this proposed  
128 distinctive plate shall be made under this application. In  
129 addition, the sponsoring organization may not submit another  
130 application for a distinctive license plate for a period of  
131 one year from the date the commitment to purchase period  
132 ended.

133 f. Upon determination by the Department of Revenue that  
134 a sufficient number of applications for a plate category has  
135 been received, the department shall initiate the ordering  
136 processes for design and manufacture of the approved license  
137 plate. At that time, the Comptroller shall pay out of the  
138 escrow account the amounts referred to in Section 32-6-68.

139 (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions to the  
140 contrary, except where specifically provided by this



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141 subsection, no distinctive license plates shall be reissued  
142 unless the following requirements are met:

143 a. For Quantity Class 1 distinctive license plates,  
144 there shall have been issued in the prior license year a  
145 minimum of 250 license plates.

146 b. For Quantity Class 2 distinctive license plates,  
147 there shall have been issued in the prior license year a  
148 minimum of 1,000 license plates.

149 (3) The use of distinctive license plate categories  
150 shall be limited to use on passenger cars, pick-up trucks, and  
151 self-propelled campers or house cars.

152 (c) (1) The Department of Corrections ~~is directed to~~  
153 shall supply all license plates and revalidation devices  
154 required under this subdivision. The amounts charged by the  
155 Department of Corrections for the manufacture of revalidation  
156 devices shall not be less than that charged for the  
157 manufacture of license plates on a per item basis.

158 (2) The Department of Corrections shall maintain an  
159 accurate system of recordkeeping which shall trace and account  
160 for the handling and distribution of each plate and  
161 revalidation device throughout the manufacturing process until  
162 the items are distributed to each county.

163 (d) After the five-year license plate has been in use  
164 for a period of three years, the Department of Corrections may  
165 manufacture all subsequent license plates for the remaining  
166 two years of the period from a metal of less durability and  
167 quality than the metal used in manufacturing the five-year  
168 license plates.



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169 (e) (1) The department shall provide the owner or owners  
170 of a motor vehicle who register a license plate provided in  
171 this subsection with the ability to ~~opt-in~~ opt in to authorize  
172 the release of certain personal information or to ~~opt-out~~ opt  
173 out to restrict the release of certain personal information by  
174 the department to the sponsoring organization, college, or  
175 university. The license plates that shall be subject to the  
176 opt-in and opt-out provisions are as follows:

177 a. A distinctive license plate issued pursuant to this  
178 section.

179 b. A collegiate or university distinctive license plate  
180 issued pursuant to Section 32-6-150.

181 c. Other distinctive license plates as authorized by  
182 the legislative oversight committee.

183 (2) Each owner of the motor vehicle may designate his  
184 or her consent through the opt-in authorization to release  
185 certain personal information included within a motor vehicle  
186 registration record to the sponsoring organization, college,  
187 or university. The opt-in authorization shall be made at the  
188 time of initial registration through the licensing official  
189 for a license plate as specified in subdivision (1).  
190 Subsequent opt-in authorizations shall be made directly to the  
191 department. As used in this subsection, the term "personal  
192 information" includes only the following information:

193 a. Owner name.

194 b. Owner address.

195 c. Owner email address, if applicable.

196 (3) Each owner of the motor vehicle may restrict the



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197 release of personal information included within a motor  
198 vehicle registration record for a license plate as specified  
199 in subdivision (1) to the sponsoring organization, college, or  
200 university by selecting to ~~opt-out~~opt out. The opt-out  
201 selection shall be made directly to the department.

202 (4) The subsequent opt-in authorization provided in  
203 subdivision (2) and opt-out selection provided in subdivision  
204 (3) shall be made in a manner as prescribed by the department.

205 (5) The sponsoring organization of the distinctive  
206 license plate or each college or university for which a  
207 distinctive license plate has been issued may make an annual  
208 request to the department for the listing of the owner  
209 authorized opt-in disclosures. The sponsoring organization in  
210 receipt of the listing shall be prohibited from the resale or  
211 disclosure of the information to third parties without written  
212 consent from the owner to whom the information pertains.

213 (f) All proposed distinctive license plates and the  
214 continued issuance of all existing distinctive license plates  
215 shall be subject to the approval and oversight of the  
216 legislative oversight committee under Section 32-6-67 and this  
217 section, except for the following:

218 (1) In-state collegiate or in-state university category  
219 license plates.

220 (2) Military or veteran related category license  
221 plates.

222 (3) Alabama Gold Star Family license plates as provided  
223 in Section 32-6-630.

224 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no



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225 distinctive license plate shall be issued after five  
226 consecutive years in which the plate has not met the  
227 requirements for reissuance provided in this section. This  
228 subsection does not apply to military or veteran related  
229 categories or Alabama Gold Star Family distinctive license  
230 plates.

231 (h) (1) a. The Commissioner of Revenue may require  
232 ~~persons~~individuals who qualify for military and veteran  
233 related categories or Alabama Gold Star Family distinctive  
234 license plates to be recertified not more than every five  
235 years.

236 b. The Commissioner of Revenue shall not require  
237 individuals who qualify for distinctive license plates  
238 described in paragraph a. to be recertified if the  
239 individual's qualifying status is one that is permanent.

240 (2) ~~by providing~~ To be certified or recertified for a  
241 distinctive license plate described in subdivision (1), an  
242 individual shall provide the licensing official with Form  
243 DD214 or any other documentation prescribed by law or rule as  
244 evidence of qualification for the license plate. In the event  
245 that Form DD214 or other qualifying documentation prescribed  
246 by law or rule is unavailable, the applicant shall provide the  
247 licensing official with a certification of eligibility from  
248 the Department of Veterans Affairs after the applicant  
249 provides that office with other authoritative documentation  
250 evidencing eligibility for the license plate.

251 ~~(h)~~ (i) Any distinctive license plate not created  
252 pursuant to this section shall be subject to the reissuance



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253 provisions of this section and Section 32-6-62 unless  
254 specifically exempted by law, provided the Alabama Gold Star  
255 Family distinctive license plate design in effect on January  
256 1, 2021, shall not be subject to the redesign provisions of  
257 Section 32-6-62.

258 ~~(i)~~ (j) The provisions in Act 2021-407 amending this  
259 section shall not amend the distribution of the additional fee  
260 associated with a distinctive license plate as provided in  
261 Section 32-6-68 or as otherwise provided under Article 2 of  
262 this chapter."

263 Section 2. This act shall become effective on January  
264 1, 2027.