

Legislative Analysis



EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABLED VETERANS PLATE TO CERTAIN PARTIALLY DISABLED VETERANS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5127 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Mike McFall

Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure

Complete to 3-6-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

(Enacted as Public Act 149 of 2024)

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5127 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow honorably discharged partially disabled veterans to obtain a disabled veterans special registration plate.

Section 803f of the code currently provides for a special registration plate for honorably discharged totally disabled veterans.¹ The plate is inscribed with special identification numbers preceded by "DV," with the words "disabled veteran" inscribed below. The surviving spouse of a deceased totally disabled veteran can use and renew the plate. An individual who has been issued such a plate can also be issued, free of charge, an adhesive tab for persons with disabilities. The surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran can be issued such a tab if they are a disabled person.

The bill would extend the above provisions to apply to honorably discharged partially disabled veterans who have been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected disability rating of at least 50%. An application for the plate would not be subject to a service fee under section 804 of the code and would have to be accompanied by proof of the veteran's honorable discharge and service-connected disability rating. However, partially disabled veterans would not have the exemption from the vehicle registration tax under section 801 of the code that applies to totally disabled veterans.

A special registration plate issued to a partially disabled veteran would expire on the veteran's birthday and would be renewed under section 226 of the code. The applicant would not have to again furnish proof of disability for a renewal. Unlike initial applications, renewals would appear not to be exempt from a service fee under section 804.

The bill would take effect 90 days after it is enacted.

MCL 257.803f

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would not have a fiscal impact on the state or on local units of government. The extension of eligibility for the disabled veterans license plate to partially disabled veterans

¹ In addition to proof of honorable discharge, an applicant for the plate must show that they have been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total or permanent total disability rating for compensation, or that they have been determined to have a service-connected total or permanent total disability rating and are receiving disability retirement pay from a branch of the uniformed armed services.

would not include the exemption from the vehicle registration tax that is currently provided for totally disabled veterans, and therefore would not result in a corresponding decrease of revenue to the Michigan Transportation Fund.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the Madison Heights City Council testified in support of the bill.
(2-27-24)

The Department of State indicated a neutral position on the bill. (3-5-24)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.