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HOUSE BILL 2112

By Swann

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, relative to motor vehicle license plates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-253(c), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivisions:

(12)

(A) For honorably discharged veterans of the Global War on Terrorism and active members of the United States armed forces serving in the Global War on Terrorism, the plate shall be designed by the commissioner of veterans services in consultation with the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner of veterans services shall also set proof of service requirements for veterans who have served or who are still serving in the Global War on Terrorism to obtain the plate.

(B) For honorably discharged veterans who served during the Global War on Terrorism but who do not qualify for issuance of the Global War on Terrorism plate, the American flag shall be in the center of the license plate and the strip along the bottom of the license plate shall read "Global War on Terrorism Era Veteran". Nothing in this subdivision (c)(12)(B) prohibits any veteran who served during the Global War on Terrorism from requesting issuance of the honorably discharged veteran plate that is authorized by subsection (a).

(13)

(A) For honorably discharged veterans of the Afghanistan War and active members of the United States armed forces serving in the Afghanistan War, the plate shall be designed by the commissioner of veterans services in consultation with the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner of veterans services shall also set proof of service requirements for veterans who have served or who are still serving in the Afghanistan War to obtain the plate.

(B) For honorably discharged veterans who served during the Afghanistan War but who do not qualify for issuance of the Afghanistan War plate, the American flag shall be in the center of the license plate and the strip along the bottom of the license plate shall read "Afghanistan War Era Veteran". Nothing in this subdivision (c)(13)(B) prohibits any veteran who served during the Afghanistan War from requesting issuance of the honorably discharged veteran plate that is authorized by subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-253, is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) An owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is a resident of this state and who is an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces, or a civilian veteran of the United States army corps of engineers, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon payment of any applicable fees pursuant to subdivision (a)(2), shall be issued an honorably discharged veteran registration plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c). A surviving spouse of such a deceased honorably discharged veteran, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles, upon paying the regular fee applicable to the vehicle and the fee prescribed by § 55-4-203, and upon providing a copy of the death certificate of the deceased honorably

discharged veteran, shall be issued a registration plate pursuant to this section, until the surviving spouse remarries.

(2) One (1) registration plate may be issued free of charge to any qualified applicant pursuant to this section; provided, that one (1) additional plate may be obtained by any eligible person upon payment of the regular registration fee for plates, as prescribed under § 55-4-111, and payment of one-half (1/2) of the fee provided for in § 55-4-203(c)(1). Additional registration plates may be obtained by any qualified applicant upon payment of the regular license fee for plates, as prescribed under § 55-4-111, plus the payment of the fee provided for in § 55-4-203(c)(1).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.