

**VETERANS LICENSE PLATES AMENDMENTS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Todd Weiler**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates special recognition license plates for the Silver Star, Air Force Cross, Navy Cross, and Distinguished Service Cross.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ creates special recognition license plates for the:
  - Silver Star;
  - Air Force Cross;
  - Navy Cross; and
  - Distinguished Service Cross.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**41-1a-418**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 38, 127, 213, and 392

**41-1a-421**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 39

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*



28 Section 1. Section **41-1a-418** is amended to read:

29 **41-1a-418. Authorized special group license plates.**

30 (1) The division shall only issue special group license plates in accordance with this  
31 section through Section **41-1a-422** to a person who is specified under this section within the  
32 categories listed as follows:

33 (a) disability special group license plates issued in accordance with Section **41-1a-420**;

34 (b) honor special group license plates, as in a war hero, which plates are issued for a:

35 (i) survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;

36 (ii) former prisoner of war;

37 (iii) recipient of a Purple Heart;

38 (iv) disabled veteran;

39 (v) recipient of a gold star award issued by the United States Secretary of Defense; [or]

40 (vi) recipient of a campaign or combat theater award determined by the Department of  
41 Veterans and Military Affairs;

42 (vii) recipient of the Silver Star;

43 (viii) recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross;

44 (ix) recipient of the Air Force Cross; or

45 (x) recipient of the Navy Cross;

46 (c) unique vehicle type special group license plates, as for historical, collectors value,  
47 or other unique vehicle type, which plates are issued for:

48 (i) a special interest vehicle;

49 (ii) a vintage vehicle;

50 (iii) a farm truck; or

51 (iv) (A) until Subsection (1)(c)(iv)(B) or (4) applies, a vehicle powered by clean fuel as  
52 defined in Section **59-13-102**; or

53 (B) beginning on the effective date of rules made by the Department of Transportation  
54 authorized under Subsection **41-6a-702(5)(b)** and until Subsection (4) applies, a vehicle  
55 powered by clean fuel that meets the standards established by the Department of Transportation  
56 in rules authorized under Subsection **41-6a-702(5)(b)**;

57 (d) recognition special group license plates, which plates are issued for:

58 (i) a current member of the Legislature;

- 59 (ii) a current member of the United States Congress;
- 60 (iii) a current member of the National Guard;
- 61 (iv) a licensed amateur radio operator;
- 62 (v) a currently employed, volunteer, or retired firefighter until June 30, 2009;
- 63 (vi) an emergency medical technician;
- 64 (vii) a current member of a search and rescue team;
- 65 (viii) a current honorary consulate designated by the United States Department of  
66 State;
- 67 (ix) an individual supporting commemoration and recognition of women's suffrage;
- 68 (x) an individual supporting a fraternal, initiatic order for those sharing moral and  
69 metaphysical ideals, and designed to teach ethical and philosophical matters of brotherly love,  
70 relief, and truth; or
- 71 (xi) an individual supporting the Utah Wing of the Civil Air Patrol; or
- 72 (e) support special group license plates, as for a contributor to an institution or cause,  
73 which plates are issued for a contributor to:
- 74 (i) an institution's scholastic scholarship fund;
- 75 (ii) the Division of Wildlife Resources;
- 76 (iii) the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs;
- 77 (iv) the Division of Parks and Recreation;
- 78 (v) the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- 79 (vi) the Guardian Ad Litem Services Account and the Children's Museum of Utah;
- 80 (vii) the Boy Scouts of America;
- 81 (viii) spay and neuter programs through No More Homeless Pets in Utah;
- 82 (ix) the Boys and Girls Clubs of America;
- 83 (x) Utah public education;
- 84 (xi) programs that provide support to organizations that create affordable housing for  
85 those in severe need through the Division of Real Estate;
- 86 (xii) the Department of Public Safety;
- 87 (xiii) programs that support Zion National Park;
- 88 (xiv) beginning on July 1, 2009, programs that provide support to firefighter  
89 organizations;

- 90 (xv) programs that promote bicycle operation and safety awareness;
- 91 (xvi) programs that conduct or support cancer research;
- 92 (xvii) programs that create or support autism awareness;
- 93 (xviii) programs that create or support humanitarian service and educational and
- 94 cultural exchanges;
- 95 (xix) until September 30, 2017, programs that conduct or support prostate cancer
- 96 awareness, screening, detection, or prevention;
- 97 (xx) programs that support and promote adoptions;
- 98 (xxi) programs that create or support civil rights education and awareness;
- 99 (xxii) programs that support issues affecting women and children through an
- 100 organization affiliated with a national professional men's basketball organization;
- 101 (xxiii) programs that strengthen youth soccer, build communities, and promote
- 102 environmental sustainability through an organization affiliated with a professional men's soccer
- 103 organization;
- 104 (xxiv) programs that support children with heart disease;
- 105 (xxv) programs that support the operation and maintenance of the Utah Law
- 106 Enforcement Memorial;
- 107 (xxvi) programs that provide assistance to children with cancer;
- 108 (xxvii) programs that promote leadership and career development through agricultural
- 109 education;
- 110 (xxviii) the Utah State Historical Society;
- 111 (xxix) programs to transport veterans to visit memorials honoring the service and
- 112 sacrifices of veterans; or
- 113 (xxx) programs that promote motorcycle safety awareness.
- 114 (2) (a) The division may not issue a new type of special group license plate or decal
- 115 unless the division receives:
- 116 (i) (A) a private donation for the start-up fee established under Section [63J-1-504](#) for
- 117 the production and administrative costs of providing the new special group license plates or
- 118 decals; or
- 119 (B) a legislative appropriation for the start-up fee provided under Subsection
- 120 (2)(a)(i)(A); and

121 (ii) beginning on January 1, 2012, and for the issuance of a support special group  
122 license plate authorized in Section 41-1a-422, at least 500 completed applications for the new  
123 type of support special group license plate or decal to be issued with all fees required under this  
124 part for the support special group license plate or decal issuance paid by each applicant.

125 (b) (i) Beginning on January 1, 2012, each participating organization shall collect and  
126 hold applications for support special group license plates or decals authorized in Section  
127 41-1a-422 on or after January 1, 2012, until it has received at least 500 applications.

128 (ii) Once a participating organization has received at least 500 applications, it shall  
129 submit the applications, along with the necessary fees, to the division for the division to begin  
130 working on the design and issuance of the new type of support special group license plate or  
131 decal to be issued.

132 (iii) Beginning on January 1, 2012, the division may not work on the issuance or design  
133 of a new support special group license plate or decal authorized in Section 41-1a-422 until the  
134 applications and fees required under this Subsection (2) have been received by the division.

135 (iv) The division shall begin issuance of a new support special group license plate or  
136 decal authorized in Section 41-1a-422 on or after January 1, 2012, no later than six months  
137 after receiving the applications and fees required under this Subsection (2).

138 (c) (i) Beginning on July 1, 2009, the division may not renew a motor vehicle  
139 registration of a motor vehicle that has been issued a firefighter recognition special group  
140 license plate unless the applicant is a contributor as defined in Subsection  
141 41-1a-422(1)(a)(ii)(D) to the Firefighter Support Restricted Account.

142 (ii) A registered owner of a vehicle that has been issued a firefighter recognition  
143 special group license plate prior to July 1, 2009, upon renewal of the owner's motor vehicle  
144 registration shall:

145 (A) be a contributor to the Firefighter Support Restricted Account as required under  
146 Subsection (2)(c)(i); or

147 (B) replace the firefighter recognition special group license plate with a new license  
148 plate.

149 (3) Beginning on July 1, 2011, if a support special group license plate or decal type  
150 authorized in Section 41-1a-422 and issued on or after January 1, 2012, has fewer than 500  
151 license plates issued each year for a three consecutive year time period that begins on July 1,

152 the division may not issue that type of support special group license plate or decal to a new  
153 applicant beginning on January 1 of the following calendar year after the three consecutive year  
154 time period for which that type of support special group license plate or decal has fewer than  
155 500 license plates issued each year.

156 (4) Beginning on July 1, 2011, the division may not issue to an applicant a unique  
157 vehicle type license plate for a vehicle powered by clean fuel under Subsection (1)(c)(iv).

158 (5) (a) Beginning on October 1, 2017, the division may not issue a new prostate cancer  
159 support special group license plate.

160 (b) A registered owner of a vehicle that has been issued a prostate cancer support  
161 special group license plate before October 1, 2017, may renew the owner's motor vehicle  
162 registration, with the contribution allocated as described in Section [41-1a-422](#).

163 Section 2. Section **41-1a-421** is amended to read:

164 **41-1a-421. Honor special group license plates -- Personal identity requirements.**

165 (1) (a) The requirements of this Subsection (1) apply to a vehicle displaying a:

- 166 (i) survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor license plate;
- 167 (ii) former prisoner of war license plate;
- 168 (iii) Purple Heart license plate;
- 169 (iv) disabled veteran license plate; or
- 170 (v) campaign or combat theater award license plate.

171 (b) The vehicle shall be titled in the name of the veteran or the veteran and spouse.

172 (c) Upon the death of the veteran, the surviving spouse may, upon application to the  
173 division, retain the special group license plate decal so long as the surviving spouse remains  
174 unmarried.

175 (d) The division shall require the surviving spouse to make a sworn statement that the  
176 surviving spouse is unmarried before renewing the registration under this section.

177 (2) Proper evidence of a Purple Heart is either:

- 178 (a) a membership card in the Military Order of the Purple Heart; or
- 179 (b) an original or certificate in lieu of the applicant's military discharge form, DD-214,  
180 issued by the National Personnel Records Center.

181 (3) The Purple Heart license plates shall bear:

- 182 (a) the words "Purple Heart" at the bottom of the plate;

- 183 (b) a logo substantially depicting a Purple Heart award; and  
184 (c) the letter and number combinations assigned by the division.
- 185 (4) Proper evidence that a person is a disabled veteran is a written document issued by  
186 a military entity certifying that the person is disabled as a result of service in a branch of the  
187 United States Military.
- 188 (5) A disabled veteran seeking a disabled veteran license plate shall request the  
189 Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to provide the verification required under  
190 Subsection (4).
- 191 (6) (a) An applicant for a gold star license plate shall submit written documentation  
192 that the applicant is a recipient of a gold star award issued by the United States Secretary of  
193 Defense.
- 194 (b) Written documentation under Subsection (6)(a) may include any of the following:  
195 (i) a death certificate;  
196 (ii) documentation showing classification of death as listed by the United States  
197 Secretary of Defense;  
198 (iii) a casualty report;  
199 (iv) a telegram from the United States Secretary of Defense or one of the branches of  
200 the United States armed forces; or  
201 (v) other documentation that verifies the applicant meets the requirements of  
202 Subsection (6)(a).
- 203 (7) An applicant for a campaign or combat theater award special group license plate  
204 shall:
- 205 (a) be a contributor in accordance with Subsections [41-1a-422\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)\(B\)](#) and  
206 [\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)\(A\)](#); and  
207 (b) submit a form to the division obtained from the Department of Veterans and  
208 Military Affairs which verifies that the applicant qualifies for the campaign or combat theater  
209 award special group license plate requested.
- 210 (8) Each campaign or combat theater award special group license plate authorized by  
211 the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs shall be considered a new special group  
212 license plate and require the payment of the fees associated with newly authorized special  
213 group license plates.

214           (9) An applicant for a Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, or  
215 Navy Cross special group license plate shall submit a form to the division obtained from the  
216 Department of Veterans and Military Affairs which verifies that the applicant qualifies for the  
217 award special group license plate requested.