

1 H.51

2 Introduced by Representatives Bohi of Hartford and Christie of Hartford

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; gold star registration plates; noncombat deaths

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to amend the motor vehicle statutes
7 regarding the issuance of special registration plates to members of gold star
8 families by providing that spouses, parents, and next of kin of members of the
9 armed forces who died in noncombat activities related to their service be
10 eligible for the special plates.

~~An act relating to expanding the issuance of gold star registration plates. An
act relating to gold star and next-of-kin registration plates~~

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 ~~Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304(k) is amended to read:~~

13 (k) The commissioner of motor vehicles shall, upon proper application,
14 issue special plates to gold star family members, as which shall include persons
15 defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126 as well as the widow or widower, parents, and
16 next of kin of a member of the armed forces who died from noncombat
17 activities while serving his or her country, for use only on vehicles registered
18 at the pleasure car rate and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and
19 excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan. The
20 type and style of the gold star plate shall be determined by the commissioner,

1 ~~except that a gold star shall appear on one side of the plate. An applicant shall~~
2 ~~apply on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and the applicant's eligibility~~
3 ~~will be certified by the office of veterans' affairs. A plate shall be reissued~~
4 ~~only to the original holder of the plate. The commissioner may adopt rules to~~
5 ~~implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for new or renewed~~
6 ~~registrations, applications for the issuance of gold star plates shall be processed~~
7 ~~in the order received by the department subject to normal workflow~~
8 ~~considerations.~~

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304(k) is amended to read:

(k)(1) The commissioner of motor vehicles shall, upon proper application, issue special gold star and next-of-kin plates to gold star family members, as defined for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan, as follows:

(A) Gold star plates shall be issued to the widow or widower, parents, and next of kin as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126(d) of members of the armed forces who lost their lives under the circumstances described in 10 U.S.C. § 1126, for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and on trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds and excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan 1126(a).

(B) Next-of-kin plates shall be issued to the widow or widower, parents, and next of kin as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126(d) of members of the armed forces not eligible for gold star plates under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1) who lost their lives while serving on active duty or on active duty for training, or while assigned in a reserve or national guard unit in drill status, or as a result of injury or illness incurred during such service or assignment.

(2) The type and style of the gold star ~~plate~~ and next-of-kin plates shall be determined by the commissioner and the Vermont office of veterans' affairs, except that a gold star shall appear on one side of ~~the plate~~ gold star plates and a distinct emblem shall be approved for next-of-kin plates. An applicant shall apply on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and the applicant's eligibility will be certified by the office of veterans' affairs. A plate shall be reissued only to the original holder of the plate. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection. Except for new or renewed registrations, applications for the issuance of gold star or next-of-kin plates shall be processed in the order received by the department subject to normal workflow considerations.