

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 4861

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the design and issuance of specialty license plates to
3 honor members of the military and for recipients of certain
4 military awards.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 504.202(e-1), Transportation Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (e-1) Other than license plates issued under Subsection
9 (h), license plates issued under this section may include, on
10 request:

- 11 (1) the emblem of the veteran's branch of service; or
12 (2) one emblem from another license plate to which the
13 person is entitled under Section 504.308, 504.309, 504.310(b),
14 504.311, 504.312, 504.313, 504.3135, 504.314, 504.315, 504.316,
15 504.3161, 504.318, 504.319, 504.320, 504.323, 504.325, [~~e~~]
16 504.327, 504.331, 504.332, 504.333, 504.334, or 504.335.

17 SECTION 2. Section 504.301, Transportation Code, is amended
18 by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

19 (a-1) The department may consider recommendations for the
20 design of specialty license plates under Subsection (a) from
21 persons who are eligible to be issued a specialty license plate
22 under this subchapter.

23 SECTION 3. Section 504.3015, Transportation Code, is
24 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and

1 (a-2) to read as follows:

2 (a) A person applying for a set of license plates under this
3 subchapter shall pay:

4 (1) except as provided by Subsections (a-1) and (a-2),
5 the registration fee required under Chapter 502; and

6 (2) any [the] applicable special plate fee required
7 under this section.

8 (a-1) The department shall issue one set of license plates
9 [, except that one set of license plates shall be issued] without
10 the payment of the registration fee required under Chapter 502 for
11 the first registration period and for each renewal of registration
12 for which the vehicle is registered with license plates issued
13 under:

14 (1) Section 504.308;

15 (2) Section 504.310(b);

16 (3) Section 504.315, other than Subsections (c) and
17 (q) of that section; and

18 (4) Section 504.319.

19 (a-2) The department shall issue one set of license plates
20 without the payment of the registration fee required under Chapter
21 502 for the first registration period for which the vehicle is
22 registered with license plates issued under:

23 (1) Section 504.331;

24 (2) Section 504.332;

25 (3) Section 504.333;

26 (4) Section 504.334; and

27 (5) Section 504.335.

1 SECTION 4. Subchapter D, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,
2 is amended by adding Sections 504.331, 504.332, 504.333, 504.334,
3 and 504.335 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 504.331. TEXAS HOMELAND DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL. The
5 department shall issue specialty license plates for recipients of
6 the Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal. The license plates must
7 include the Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal emblem and must
8 include the words "Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal" at the
9 bottom of each plate.

10 Sec. 504.332. TEXAS SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL. The department
11 shall issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Texas
12 Superior Service Medal. The license plates must include the Texas
13 Superior Service Medal emblem and must include the words "Texas
14 Superior Service Medal" at the bottom of each plate.

15 Sec. 504.333. LONE STAR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL. The
16 department shall issue specialty license plates for recipients of
17 the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal. License plates issued
18 under this subsection must include the Lone Star Distinguished
19 Service Medal emblem and must include the words "Lone Star
20 Distinguished Service Medal" at the bottom of each plate.

21 Sec. 504.334. TEXAS OUTSTANDING SERVICE MEDAL. The
22 department shall issue specialty license plates for recipients of
23 the Texas Outstanding Service Medal. License plates issued under
24 this subsection must include the Texas Outstanding Service Medal
25 emblem and must include the words "Texas Outstanding Service Medal"
26 at the bottom of each plate.

27 Sec. 504.335. TEXAS MEDAL OF MERIT. The department shall

1 issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Texas Medal of
2 Merit. License plates issued under this subsection must include
3 the Texas Medal of Merit emblem and must include the words "Texas
4 Medal of Merit" at the bottom of each plate.

5 SECTION 5. It is the intent of the 88th Legislature, Regular
6 Session, 2023, that the amendments made by this Act be harmonized
7 with another Act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023,
8 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
9 codes.

10 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.