

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 4861

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4861:

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C.S.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.