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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1197**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, Irwin, Lovick, Barkis, Reeves, Blake, Ortiz-Self, Ormsby, Valdez, Bergquist, Mead, Fey, Volz, Chapman, Pellicciotti, Kilduff, Dolan, Sells, Maycumber, Shea, Griffey, Leavitt, and Stanford)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to gold star license plates; and amending RCW  
2 46.18.245.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.18.245 and 2017 c 24 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) A registered owner who is an eligible family member of a  
7 member of the United States armed forces who died while in service to  
8 his or her country, or as a result of his or her service, may apply  
9 to the department for special gold star license plates for use on a  
10 motor vehicle. The registered owner must:

11 (a) Be a resident of this state;

12 (b) Provide proof to the satisfaction of the department that the  
13 registered owner is an eligible family member, which includes:

14 (i) A widow;

15 (ii) A widower;

16 (iii) A biological parent;

17 (iv) An adoptive parent;

18 (v) A stepparent;

19 (vi) An adult in loco parentis or foster parent;

20 (vii) A biological child;

21 (viii) An adopted child; or

1 (ix) A sibling;

2 (c) Provide certification from the Washington state department of  
3 veterans affairs that the registered owner qualifies for the special  
4 license plate under this section; and

5 (d) Be recorded as the registered owner of the motor vehicle on  
6 which the gold star license plates will be displayed(~~;~~ and

7 ~~(e) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, pay all~~  
8 ~~fees and taxes required by law for registering the motor vehicle)~~).

9 ~~(2) ((a) In addition to the license plate fee exemption in~~  
10 ~~subsection (3) (b) of this section, the widow or widower recipient of~~  
11 ~~a gold star license plate under this section is also exempt from~~  
12 ~~annual vehicle registration fees for one personal use motor vehicle.~~  
13 ~~(b))~~) In lieu of applying for a gold star license plate under  
14 this section, an eligible widow or widower under subsection (1) (b) of  
15 this section may apply for a standard issue license plate or any  
16 qualifying special license plate for one personal use motor vehicle  
17 and be exempt from ~~((both))~~ payment of annual vehicle registration  
18 fees, motor vehicle excise taxes, and license plate fees for that  
19 vehicle.

20 (3) Gold star license plates must be issued:

21 (a) Only for motor vehicles owned by qualifying applicants; and

22 (b) Without payment of any vehicle license fees, license plate  
23 fees, and motor vehicle excise taxes.

24 (4) Gold star license plates must be replaced, free of charge, if  
25 the license plates become lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or  
26 destroyed.

27 (5) Gold star license plates may be transferred from one motor  
28 vehicle to another motor vehicle owned by the eligible family member,  
29 as described in subsection (1) of this section, upon application to  
30 the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed  
31 by the director.

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