

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 1132

As of March 27, 2013

Title: An act relating to gold star license plates.

Brief Description: Authorizing certain family members of United States armed forces members who died while in service or as a result of service to apply for gold star license plates.

Sponsors: Representatives Hayes, Seaquist, Smith, Van De Wege, Kristiansen, Takko, Haler, Rodne, Sells, McCoy, Dunshee, Moscoso, Tharinger, Ryu, Zeiger, Green, Wilcox, Jinkins, Riccelli, Hurst, Morrell, Scott, Freeman, Dahlquist, Bergquist, Hargrove and Parker.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/13/13, 98-0.

Committee Activity: Transportation: 3/26/13.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

Background: The Department of Licensing issues various special vehicle license plates that may be used in lieu of standard plates. Generally, special license plates that are sponsored by a governmental or nonprofit organization have an additional fee that is due annually, with the proceeds benefiting a specific organization or purpose. Other special license plates are available to individuals that meet certain requirements. One such special plate is the Gold Star license plate, which may be issued to the mother or father of a member of the armed forces who died while in service and as a result of that service. Gold Star license plates are issued without payment of any license plate fees and are replaced free of charge if the plate is lost, stolen, damaged, defaced, or destroyed.

Summary of Bill: The list of individuals that are eligible to receive a Gold Star license plate is expanded to include a widow or widower, a biological or adopted child, a biological parent, an adoptive parent, a stepparent, and a foster parent or other adult that is legally responsible for the member of the armed forces.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill honors fallen service members and their surviving family members for their collective sacrifices and service. The Gold Star license plate represents a way for surviving spouses and family members to identify persons with whom they share a kinship as well as show pride in their loved ones who gave their life in service of their country. Nearly all states have a version of a Gold Star license plate, and in most states the widow, widower, or spouse is first on the list of eligibility.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Hayes, prime sponsor; Ted Wicorek, Veterans Legislative Coalition.