

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 569

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO VETERANS PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 49-418, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE  
2 FOR AMERICAN LEGION OR VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
3 DESIGNATIONS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMER-  
4 GENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Section 49-418, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 49-418. VETERANS PLATES. (1) Any person who is the owner of a vehicle  
10 registered under the provisions of section 49-402 or 49-434(1), Idaho Code,  
11 may apply for and upon department approval receive special veterans license  
12 plates in lieu of regular license plates. The provisions of this section  
13 shall not apply to any vehicle with a registered maximum gross weight over  
14 twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds. Availability of veterans plates for  
15 other vehicles shall be subject to the rules, policies and procedures of the  
16 department.

17 (2) Proof of being a current or former member of the United States armed  
18 forces must be furnished to the department before special veterans plates  
19 will be issued. Acceptable proof shall be a copy of form DD214 or an equiva-  
20 lent document or statement from the department of veterans affairs.

21 (3) In addition to the regular registration fees required in section  
22 49-402(1) or 49-434(1), Idaho Code, the applicant shall pay the initial pro-  
23 gram fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and the annual program fee of fif-  
24 teen dollars (\$15.00) as specified in section 49-402, Idaho Code, and the  
25 plate fee specified in section 49-450, Idaho Code. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of  
26 the initial program fee and ten dollars (\$10.00) of the annual program fee  
27 shall be deposited in the state highway account and shall be used to fund  
28 the cost of administration of this special license plate program. Fifteen  
29 dollars (\$15.00) of the initial program fee and five dollars (\$5.00) of the  
30 annual program fee shall be deposited to the veterans cemetery maintenance  
31 fund created in section 65-107, Idaho Code, and shall be used to operate and  
32 maintain a state veterans cemetery.

33 (4) Whenever title or interest in a vehicle registered under the pro-  
34 visions of this section is transferred or assigned, the owner may transfer  
35 the special plates to another vehicle upon payment of the required transfer  
36 fees. The owner may only display the plates on another vehicle only upon re-  
37 ceipt of the new registration from the department.

38 (5) (a) The veterans license plate design shall include the colors red,  
39 white, and blue, shall designate either one (1) of the five (5) branches  
40 of military service or the name of one (1) of the veterans service orga-  
41 nizations identified in subsection (7) of this section, and shall dis-  
42 play either:

1           (a~~i~~) The word "VETERAN";

2           (b~~ii~~) The name of a conflict or war period recognized by the United  
3 States department of veterans affairs for the purpose of awarding  
4 federal veterans benefits as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(11); or

5           (e~~iii~~) For a current or former member of the United States armed  
6 forces who has served in Afghanistan or Iraq during the post\_9/11  
7 global operations period, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 4110A(c), the  
8 name of the post\_9/11 global operations theater.

9           (b) The license plate design shall comply with all applicable rules of  
10 the department and shall include a separate and distinct numbering sys-  
11 tem. The design, color, and numbering system shall be subject to ap-  
12 proval of the department.

13           (6) Veterans license plates may be retained and displayed on vehicles  
14 owned by the surviving spouse of a qualified veteran. In addition, provided  
15 that the deceased veteran met the criteria set forth ~~above~~ in this section,  
16 surviving spouses of qualified veterans shall be authorized to apply for and  
17 receive veterans plates and may retain, renew and display veterans plates  
18 for ~~so~~ as long as the surviving spouse is within the definition set forth in  
19 38 U.S.C. 101(3). There shall be no requirement that the veteran, while liv-  
20 ing, resided in Idaho or had applied for or received veterans plates. Such  
21 plates shall be used on a vehicle owned by the surviving spouse.

22           (7) Pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, the American legion or  
23 the veterans of foreign wars of the United States may be designated as a vet-  
24 erans service organization in lieu of a branch of military service, provided  
25 that the Idaho transportation department has entered into or adopted a memo-  
26 randum of understanding with such organizations regarding any costs associ-  
27 ated with participation in the veterans plate program pursuant to this sec-  
28 tion.

29           SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
30 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
31 July 1, 2022.