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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/14

SPONSOR Sharer & White **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Extra License Plates for Purple Hearts **SB** 154

ANALYST Boerner

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Insignificant	Insignificant			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 154 changes the number of allowable special registration plates for individuals who have received a Purple Heart medal. Current statute allows for special registration plates for up to two vehicles to a person who has received any number of Purple Heart medals.

HB 154 provides that a veteran who has received more than two Purple Heart medals is entitled to an additional special registration plate for each additional award of the Purple Heart metal.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The TRD notes the fiscal impact of this bill is insignificant – less than \$10,000 per year in lost registration fees (e.g. \$4,000 per year if 100 additional Purple Heart plates are issued with the waiver of registration fees averaging \$43 each).

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

TRD states that based on information received from the Department of Veterans Services, there may be 200-300 veterans with 3 or more Purple Hearts. There is no way of knowing how many of those individuals own 3 or more vehicles and would be able to take advantage of their eligibility for additional Purple Heart plates.

TRD also notes that the New Mexico Military Order of the Purple Heart indicates that it is opposed to any change in the current law regarding the issuance of Purple Heart license plates.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DMA notes that the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Veterans who have received a bona fide Purple Heart medal will continue to be eligible for a special registration plate for up to two vehicles as per current statute.

CB/ds