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AN ACT

RELATING TO REGISTRATION PLATES; CREATING A SPECIAL AIR MEDAL
LICENSE PLATE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE UNITED
STATES ARMED FORCES AIR MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT
WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AERIAL FLIGHT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 66-3-419 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,
Chapter 46, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-419. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES--ARMED FORCES
VETERANS.--

A. The department shall issue distinctive
registration plates indicating that the recipient is a
veteran of the armed forces of the United States or is
retired from the national guard or military reserves if that
person submits proof satisfactory to the department of
honorable discharge from the armed forces or of retirement
from the national guard or military reserves.

B. For a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), which is
in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fees,
any motor vehicle owner who is a veteran of the armed forces
of the United States or is retired from the national guard or
military reserves may apply for the issuance of a special
registration plate, as defined in Subsection A of this
section. No two owners shall be issued identically lettered

1 or numbered plates.

2 C. The fifteen-dollar (\$15.00) fee provided in
3 Subsection B of this section shall be waived for each
4 registration period in which a validating sticker is issued
5 under the provisions of Section 66-3-17 NMSA 1978, in lieu of
6 the issuance of a special armed forces veteran plate.

7 D. Each armed forces veteran may elect to receive
8 a veteran-designation decal to be placed across the top of
9 the plate, centered above the registration number.

10 Replacement or different veteran-designation decals shall be
11 available for purchase from the department at a reasonable
12 charge to be set by the secretary. The department shall
13 furnish the following veteran-designation decals with the
14 armed forces veteran plate to a:

- 15 (1) medal of honor recipient;
- 16 (2) silver star recipient;
- 17 (3) bronze star recipient;
- 18 (4) navy cross recipient;
- 19 (5) distinguished service cross recipient;
- 20 (6) air force cross recipient;
- 21 (7) armed forces air medal recipient;
- 22 (8) ex-prisoner of war;
- 23 (9) disabled veteran;
- 24 (10) purple heart veteran;
- 25 (11) atomic veteran;

- 1 (12) Pearl Harbor survivor;
- 2 (13) Navajo code talker;
- 3 (14) Vietnam veteran;
- 4 (15) Korean veteran;
- 5 (16) disabled Korean veteran;
- 6 (17) World War II veteran;
- 7 (18) World War I veteran;
- 8 (19) Grenada veteran;
- 9 (20) Panama veteran;
- 10 (21) Desert Storm veteran; or
- 11 (22) Iraqi Freedom veteran.

12 E. The revenue from the special registration
13 plates for the armed forces veterans fee imposed by
14 Subsection B of this section shall be distributed as follows:

15 (1) seven dollars (\$7.00) of the fee
16 collected for each registration plate shall be retained by
17 the department and is appropriated to the department for the
18 manufacture and issuance of the registration plates; and

19 (2) eight dollars (\$8.00) of the fee
20 collected for each registration plate shall be transferred
21 pursuant to the provisions of Subsection F of this section.

22 F. There is created in the state treasury the
23 "armed forces veterans license fund". A portion of the fee
24 collected for each special registration plate for armed
25 forces veterans, as provided in Subsection E of this section,

1 shall be transferred to the state treasurer for the credit of
2 the fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be made on
3 vouchers issued and signed by the secretary of veterans'
4 services or the secretary's authorized representative upon
5 warrants drawn by the department of finance and
6 administration for the purpose of expanding services to rural
7 areas of the state, including Native American communities and
8 senior citizen centers. Any unexpended or unencumbered
9 balance remaining at the end of any fiscal year in the armed
10 forces veterans license fund shall not revert to the general
11 fund.

12 G. A person shall not falsely represent that the
13 person was honorably discharged from the armed forces or
14 retired from the national guard or military reserves so as to
15 be eligible to be issued a special registration plate
16 pursuant to this section. A person who violates the
17 provisions of this subsection is guilty of a penalty
18 assessment misdemeanor."

19 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
20 provisions of this act is July 1, 2019. _____