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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Brandt/Griggs **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/18/2019
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Disabled Veteran License Plate Options **SB** 236

ANALYST Chenier

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20	FY21		
	(minimal)	(minimal)	Recurring	MVD Operating Fund
	(minimal)	(minimal)	Recurring	Armed Forces Veterans License Fund
	(minimal)	(minimal)	Recurring	State Road Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Near duplication of Senate Bill 297 from 2017 Legislative Session.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Transportation (DOT)

2017 SB297 Responses Received From

Veterans Services Department (VSD)

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 236 would allow veterans that are rated 50 percent or more disabled to apply for up to two special registration plates in any combination of the veteran's choice (that they are eligible for) without being charged fees. Currently 50 percent or more disabled veterans are permitted up to two disabled veteran plates. However, to receive a waiver of the fees, these veterans are issued a plate indicating they are disabled, which may be stigmatizing for some veterans. The bill would waive fees that would otherwise be charged to veterans who are disabled for other types of special registration plates such as the \$17.00 fee charged for women veteran plates and standard armed forces veteran plates.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is presumed some veterans who are currently eligible for disabled veteran’s license plates, opt for plate designs that currently come with a fee, because they do not want to advertise their disabilities. Veterans in this category, likely a small number, would take advantage of the change in this bill and seek to register their vehicles free of charge.

Fifty percent of disabled veterans might alternatively receive up to two special plates with designs not related to military service, or up to two regular registration plates for no fee, including regular registration fees.

DOT provided the following analysis:

Some of the special plates that currently require payment of regular registration fees as well as an additional fee to MVD for the cost of the plate would be available free of charge to 50 percent disabled veterans who were disabled while serving. It is unclear how many disabled veterans would prefer some other special plate design. It also is not clear whether, in the absence of this legislation, a disabled veteran might choose to pay for a particular special plate for a fee when a Disabled Veteran plate is available at no charge. Since the bill limits the free plate to no more than two, it seems likely that disabled veterans might choose two free plates of other designs rather than two free Disabled Veteran plates. Therefore, the negative revenue impact on vehicle registration fee revenue is negligible and inconsequential as a result of the expanded options.

Current License Plate Fees and Plate Limits

License Plate Type	Fees Charged	Plate Limit	Comment
Armed Forces Veteran (Automobile/Motorcycle)	\$17.00/\$9.00	2	\$8 from each plate is transferred to the armed forces veterans license fund
Woman Veteran	\$17.00	Silent	\$8 from each plate is transferred to the armed forces veterans license fund
National Guard	None	Silent	
Purple Heart	None	2	
50 Percent Disabled	None	2	To receive a waiver of fees veterans are limited to the disabled veteran plate.
Medal of Honor	None	Silent	
Prisoner of War	None	Silent	

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOT stated that while it may be clear SB 236 intends to allow two free special plates of any design to 50 percent disabled veterans, including waiver of the regular registration fee, additional language might serve to eliminate any possible misinterpretation. At the end of Section 1, Subsection A (page 2, line 15) add “for a special registration plate, **including the regular registration fee.**”