

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of certain specialty license plates, specially marked driver's licenses, and specially marked personal identification certificates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 504.302, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as follows:

(a-1) The surviving spouse of a person who would be eligible for a specialty license plate under Section 504.308, 504.310, 504.315, 504.316, or 504.319 is entitled to register one vehicle under the applicable section as long as the spouse remains unmarried.

(b) An applicant [~~for registration~~] under this section must submit proof of the eligibility of the applicant's deceased spouse for the applicable specialty license plate.

SECTION 2. Section 504.308, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 504.308. DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS MEDAL RECIPIENTS.

~~(a)~~ The department shall issue specialty license plates for persons who have received the Distinguished Flying Cross medal and Distinguished Flying Cross medal with Valor. The license plates must bear a depiction of the Distinguished Flying Cross medal and the words "Distinguished Flying Cross" at the bottom of each

1 license plate. License plates issued under this section to
2 recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross medal with Valor that
3 are not personalized must also include the letter "V" as a prefix or
4 suffix to the numerals on each plate.

5 SECTION 3. Section 504.317, Transportation Code, is amended
6 by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

7 (b-1) A person is eligible to receive specialty license
8 plates under this section if the person is the surviving spouse of a
9 person who had been entitled to specialty plates for veterans with
10 disabilities under Section 504.202, regardless of whether the
11 deceased spouse was issued plates under that section.

12 SECTION 4. Section 521.011, Transportation Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 521.011. SERVICES INFORMATION FOR VETERANS. The
15 department and the Texas Veterans Commission shall jointly develop
16 a one-page informational paper about veterans services provided by
17 this state for veterans who receive:

18 (1) a driver's license with a designation under
19 Section 521.1235; or

20 (2) a personal identification certificate with a
21 [veteran's] designation under Section 521.102 [a one-page
22 informational paper about veterans services provided by this
23 state].

24 SECTION 5. Section 521.101(1), Transportation Code, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (1) The application for the personal identification
27 certificate must provide space for the applicant:

1 (1) to voluntarily list any information [~~military~~
2 ~~service~~] that may qualify the applicant to receive a personal
3 identification certificate with a [~~veteran's~~] designation under
4 Section 521.102; and

5 (2) to include proof required by the department to
6 determine the applicant's eligibility to receive that designation.

7 SECTION 6. Section 521.102, Transportation Code, is amended
8 by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1),
9 (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

10 (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Disability rating" has the meaning assigned by
12 Section 11.22, Tax Code.

13 (2) "Disabled veteran" and [7] "veteran" have the
14 meanings assigned by Section 521.1235 [~~means a person who:~~

15 [~~(1) has served in:~~

16 [~~(A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or~~
17 ~~marine corps of the United States, or~~

18 [~~(B) the Texas National Guard as defined by~~
19 ~~Section 431.001, Government Code, and~~

20 [~~(2) has been honorably discharged from the branch of~~
21 ~~the service in which the person served].~~

22 (b-1) If a disabled veteran provides proof sufficient to the
23 department, the department, on request of the disabled veteran,
24 shall include on a personal identification certificate issued to
25 the disabled veteran in any available space on the face of the
26 personal identification certificate or on the reverse side of the
27 personal identification certificate:

1 (1) a disabled veteran designation; and

2 (2) the branch of the service in which the disabled
3 veteran served.

4 (c) The department shall provide to the recipient of a
5 personal identification certificate with a [~~veteran's~~] designation
6 under this section the informational paper described by Section
7 [521.011](#) at the time the certificate is issued.

8 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by
9 Subsection (e), for purposes of obtaining a service or benefit
10 available for disabled veterans in this state, a disabled veteran
11 may use a personal identification certificate described by
12 Subsection (b-1) as satisfactory proof:

13 (1) that the disabled veteran has a disability rating
14 described by Section [521.1235](#)(a)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable; and

15 (2) of branch of service and honorable discharge.

16 (e) A personal identification certificate described by
17 Subsection (b-1) is not satisfactory proof of the disabled
18 veteran's disability rating for purposes of obtaining a property
19 tax exemption provided by Chapter [11](#), Tax Code.

20 (f) A disabled veteran who renews a personal identification
21 certificate described by Subsection (b-1) shall provide proof
22 sufficient to the department of the disabled veteran's disability
23 rating.

24 SECTION 7. Section [521.1235](#), Transportation Code, is
25 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections
26 (b-1), (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

27 (a) In this section:

1 (1) "Disability rating" has the meaning assigned by
2 Section 11.22, Tax Code.

3 (2) "Disabled veteran" means a veteran who has
4 suffered a service-connected disability with a disability rating
5 of:

6 (A) at least 50 percent; or

7 (B) 40 percent if the rating is due to the
8 amputation of a lower extremity.

9 (3) "Veteran" [~~,"veteran"~~] means a person who:

10 (A) [~~(1)~~] has served in:

11 (i) [~~(A)~~] the army, navy, air force, coast
12 guard, or marine corps of the United States; or

13 (ii) [~~(B)~~] the Texas National Guard as
14 defined by Section 437.001, Government Code; and

15 (B) [~~(2)~~] has been honorably discharged from the
16 branch of the service in which the person served.

17 (b-1) If a disabled veteran provides proof sufficient to the
18 department, the department, on request of the disabled veteran,
19 shall include on a driver's license issued to the disabled veteran
20 in any available space on the face of the driver's license or on the
21 reverse side of the driver's license:

22 (1) a disabled veteran designation; and

23 (2) the branch of the service in which the disabled
24 veteran served.

25 (c) The department shall provide to the recipient of a
26 driver's license with a [~~veteran's~~] designation under this section
27 the informational paper described by Section 521.011 at the time

1 the license is issued.

2 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by
3 Subsection (e), for purposes of obtaining a service or benefit
4 available for disabled veterans in this state, a disabled veteran
5 may use a driver's license described by Subsection (b-1) as
6 satisfactory proof:

7 (1) that the disabled veteran has a disability rating
8 described by Subsection (a)(2)(A) or (B), as applicable; and

9 (2) of branch of service and honorable discharge.

10 (e) A driver's license described by Subsection (b-1) is not
11 satisfactory proof of the disabled veteran's disability rating for
12 purposes of obtaining a property tax exemption provided by Chapter
13 11, Tax Code.

14 (f) A disabled veteran who renews a driver's license
15 described by Subsection (b-1) shall provide proof sufficient to the
16 department of the disabled veteran's disability rating.

17 SECTION 8. Section [521.142\(i\)](#), Transportation Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (i) The application must provide space for the applicant:

20 (1) to voluntarily list any information [~~military~~
21 ~~service~~] that may qualify the applicant to receive a license with a
22 [~~veteran's~~] designation under Section [521.1235](#); and

23 (2) to include proof required by the department to
24 determine the applicant's eligibility to receive that designation.

25 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 377 was passed by the House on March 29, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 377 on May 26, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 377 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor