

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1321

BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES; AMENDING SECTION 49-403, IDAHO
2 CODE, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES;
3 AMENDING SECTION 49-403A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING
4 PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT AND DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATES; AND DECLAR-
5 ING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
6

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

8 SECTION 1. That Section 49-403, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 49-403. DISABLED VETERAN -- LICENSE PLATES. No fee shall be charged
11 for the registration or reregistration of a motor vehicle owned by a veteran
12 who has established his rights to benefits under the provisions of Public
13 Law 662, 79th Congress, as amended, and Public Law 187, 82nd Congress, as
14 amended. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any vehicle with
15 a registered maximum gross weight over twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds,
16 nor to any vehicle registered under section 49-434(5), Idaho Code. No fee
17 shall be charged for the registration or reregistration of a motor vehicle
18 owned by a veteran, who is at the time of the registration or reregistration
19 receiving compensation from the veterans administration or in lieu thereof,
20 from any of the armed forces of the United States, for one hundred percent
21 (100%) service-connected disability or for any of the following specific
22 disabilities: Loss or permanent loss of use of one (1) or both feet; loss or
23 permanent loss of use of one (1) or both hands; loss of sight in both eyes or
24 permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to the degree as to constitute
25 virtual blindness. These provisions shall be considered applicable not only
26 as to the vehicle originally purchased under this authorization, but also as
27 to any vehicle subsequently purchased and owned by the same veteran, so long
28 as the privilege shall not extend to more than ~~one (1) vehicle~~ two (2) vehi-
29 cles at a time. Special license plates shall be issued for such a vehicle,
30 identified by the inscription "D.V.", and a separate number series shall be
31 used to further identify the license plates so issued. These license plates
32 shall not be issued by the counties but shall be issued by the department.
33 The plates shall be displayed in accordance with the procedure applicable to
34 license plates set forth in section 49-428, Idaho Code. A vehicle displaying
35 plates issued in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be
36 afforded the same privileges specified in section 49-410(7), Idaho Code.
37 Together with a license plate issued pursuant to this section the department
38 shall issue a special placard pursuant to section 49-410(4), Idaho Code.

39 SECTION 2. That Section 49-403A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
40 amended to read as follows:

1 49-403A. PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT -- LICENSE PLATES. (1) Purple heart
2 recipient license plates are available to any applicant who is a veteran or
3 an active or retired member of any of the armed forces of the United States,
4 reserve forces or Idaho national guard and who furnishes proof of entitle-
5 ment by providing one (1) of the following documents:

6 (a) A copy of form DD214 or equivalent document showing an award of the
7 purple heart medal;

8 (b) A copy of the certificate presented with the medal; or

9 (c) A copy of the military order describing the award of the medal to the
10 applicant.

11 (2) In addition to the regular registration fee, the applicant shall be
12 charged the plate fee required in section 49-450, Idaho Code. Whenever ti-
13 tle or interest in a vehicle registered under the provisions of this section
14 is transferred or assigned, the registration shall expire, but the purple
15 heart recipient may transfer his plates to another vehicle upon payment of
16 the required transfer fees. He may display the plates only after receipt of
17 new registration from the department. A purple heart recipient may register
18 multiple vehicles under the provisions of this section. The provisions of
19 this section shall not apply to any vehicle with a registered maximum gross
20 weight over twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds, nor to any vehicle regis-
21 tered under section 49-434 (5), Idaho Code.

22 (3) Purple heart recipient license plates may be retained and displayed
23 on vehicles owned by the surviving spouse of a deceased purple heart recipi-
24 ent. In addition, the surviving spouse of a deceased purple heart recipient
25 is eligible to reapply for and shall be issued purple heart recipient license
26 plates if the deceased purple heart recipient died on or after January 1 of
27 the five (5) years preceding the date of reapplication for the plates. Such
28 plates shall be used on a vehicle owned by the surviving spouse.

29 (4) The purple heart recipient license plates shall be of a color and
30 design acceptable to the military order of the purple heart association and
31 approved by the department, utilizing a numbering system as determined by
32 the department.

33 (5) Effective January 1, 2015, for those purple heart recipients who
34 are listed as an owner of the vehicle who also qualify as disabled pursuant
35 to section 49-410, Idaho Code, the international accessible symbol will also
36 appear on the purple heart license plates. Such requirements must be met
37 upon application for the license plates. Those plates with the disability
38 symbol shall be nontransferable to a surviving spouse, unless the require-
39 ments of section 49-410, Idaho Code, can be met by the spouse.

40 (6) A purple heart recipient who qualifies for a disabled veteran fee
41 exemption under section 49-403, Idaho Code, shall have a choice between a
42 purple heart recipient license plate or a disabled veteran license plate and
43 shall not be charged a plate fee or a fee for registration or reregistration
44 of the motor vehicle. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to the
45 vehicle originally purchased under this authorization and also to any ve-
46 hicle subsequently purchased and owned by the same veteran. The privilege
47 shall not extend to more than ~~one (1) vehicle~~ two (2) vehicles owned by the
48 veteran at a time.

1 SECTION 3. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
2 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
3 July 1, 2024.