

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

House Bill 4437

By Delegates Sheedy, D. Cannon, McCormick,
Adkins, Green, Watt, Vance, Clay, Willis, Jennings,
and Cooper

[Introduced January 16, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Energy and Public Works]

A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-3-14b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
relating to providing for one free Gold Star Family license plate to Gold Star parents.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 3. ORIGINAL AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF
CERTIFICATES OF TITLE.**

§17A-3-14b. Special registration plates for military personnel.

(a) The division may continue to issue special plates for any plate class authorized by enactments of §17A-3-14 of this code prior to the year 2023 for active, retired, or honorably discharged military personnel, or the next of kin of a member of any branch of the armed services of the United States killed in combat. The division shall charge an initial application fee of \$10 for each special registration plate issued pursuant to this section, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's military license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

(b) The applicant shall present documentation as determined by the commissioner as evidence of qualification for any plate authorized in this section.

(c) The division may issue a special registration plate pursuant to this section to any number of vehicles titled in the name of the applicant.

(d) If a new special plate as authorized in this section recognizes members of a military organization chartered by the United States Congress, the division may produce such plate upon receipt of a guarantee from the organization of a minimum of 100 applicants.

(e) A Gold star spouse shall be exempt from all registration fees otherwise required by the provisions of this chapter for the registration of one Gold Star Family license plate for personal use. For purposes of this section, a "Gold star spouse" means a widow (remarried or not) or

19 widower (remarried or not) of a veteran ~~who is eligible to receive a gold star lapel pin~~ under 10
20 U.S.C. § 1126 (or its successor).

21 (f) A Gold star parent shall be exempt from all registration fees otherwise required by the
22 provisions of this chapter for the registration of one Gold Star Family license plate for personal
23 use. For purposes of this section, a "Gold star parent" means a mother or father of a veteran who
24 is eligible to receive a gold star lapel pin under 10 U.S.C. § 1126 (or its successor).