

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

**House Bill 4437**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

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]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-3-14b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
2 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.**

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

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

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

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

16 (e) A Gold star spouse shall be exempt from all registration fees otherwise required by the  
17 provisions of this chapter for the registration of one Gold Star Family license plate for personal  
18 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).

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for one free Gold Star Family license plate to a Gold Star parent.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.