

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5579

FISCAL
NOTE

By Delegate Campbell

[Introduced February 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 special registration plates for military personnel; and providing a waiver of the
 3 one-time fee if certain requirements are met.

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: Provided, That the initial application fee of \$10 for each special
 7 registration plate issued pursuant to this section shall be waived for first-time applicants who have
 8 received an Honorable Discharge from any branch of the armed services. A surviving spouse may
 9 continue to use his or her deceased spouse's military license plate until the surviving spouse dies,
 10 remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

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

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

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

18 (e) A Gold star spouse shall be exempt from all registration fees otherwise required by the

19 provisions of this chapter for the registration of one Gold Star Family license plate for personal
20 use. For purposes of this section, a "Gold star spouse" means a widow (remarried or not) or
21 widower (remarried or not) of a veteran who is eligible to receive a gold star lapel pin under 10
22 U.S.C. § 1126 (or its successor).

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to waive the one-time \$10 fee for a Veterans license plate to any first-time applicants who have an Honorable Discharge from any branch of the armed services.

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