



HOUSE BILL 681: U.S. Army Special Forces Reg Plate/Fees.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 25, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Rogers	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 681 would do the following:*

- *Authorize a United States Army Special Forces special registration plate with no fee in addition to the regular registration plate fee.*
- *Eliminate the additional special registration plate fee for the Air Medal Recipient and Distinguished Flying Cross plates.*

CURRENT LAW: North Carolina offers a number of special registration plates. Upon application and payment of the required registration fees, a person may obtain from the Division of Motor Vehicles a special registration plate for a motor vehicle registered in that person's name if the person qualifies for the plate. The issuance of most authorized plates is contingent upon the receipt by the Division of at least 300 applications for the particular plate, or 500 applications for full-color background plates.

As a general rule, the fee for a special registration plate is the regular vehicle registration fee of \$36 plus a \$10 special registration plate fee. The following military service related plates are issued without the additional special registration plate fee:

- Active Member of the National Guard
- Bronze Star Combat Recipient
- Bronze Star Recipient
- 100% Disabled Veteran
- Ex-Prisoner of War
- Gold Star Lapel Button
- Legion of Merit
- Legion of Valor
- Military Veteran
- Military Wartime Veteran
- Partially Disabled Veteran
- Pearl Harbor Survivor
- Purple Heart Recipient
- Silver Star Recipient

The Air Medal Recipient and Distinguished Flying Cross special registration plates are currently authorized with the additional \$10 fee.

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In 2014, the General Assembly enacted legislation creating a development process for special registration plates, which requires the organization desiring the plate to submit the required number of paid applications to the Division before legislation is introduced to authorize the plate. Once legislation has passed, the organization must submit the final artwork and list of paid applicants to the Division within 60 days, or the authorization expires.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 681 would authorize a new United States Army Special Forces registration plate. If authorized, the plate would bear the name "United States Army Special Forces" and the insignia of the United States Army Special Forces, and it would be issuable to a member or veteran of the United States Army Special Forces. The plate would not be subject to the special plate development process or require a minimum number of applications before it would be produced. The fee for the plate would be the regular registration fee of \$36 with no additional special registration plate fee.

The bill would also eliminate the additional \$10 special plate fee for the existing Air Medal Recipient and Distinguished Flying Cross plates, so the fee for those plates would just be the regular registration fee of \$36.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective July 1, 2019.