



HOUSE BILL 288: Remove Fee/Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad Plate.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 23, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. John, Clampitt	Prepared by:	Trina Griffin Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 288 would remove the additional \$10 fee for a fire department or rescue squad member special registration plate.

CURRENT LAW: A special registration plate is issuable to an active regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue squad, or both. A special registration plate is subject to the standard registration fee (currently \$38.75) plus an additional \$10 fee¹, which is remitted to the Special Registration Plate Account. After deducting the cost of the plates from this account, \$1.3 million is appropriated to provide operating assistance for Visitor Centers. The remaining revenue in the account is transferred quarterly to the Department of Transportation for highway beautification (50%) and the Highway Fund for the Roadside Vegetation Management Program (50%).

Currently, the only special registration plates for which the recipient does not have to pay an additional fee are plates related to military service and plates for members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Specifically, the following plates do not require payment of an additional fee:

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

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 288 would remove the additional \$10 fee for a fire department or rescue squad member special registration plate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective July 1, 2023, and apply to special registration plates issued or renewed on or after that date.

¹ The cost of some special plates includes a fee in addition to the \$10 special registration plate fee. In those instances, the first \$10 goes to the SRPA, and the remainder is transferred quarterly to designated beneficiaries.

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