



HOUSE BILL 319: Veteran Registration Plate Modifications.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | Date: | April 5, 2023 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Blackwell, Iler, Shepard, Cleveland | Prepared by: | Wendy Ray |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | Staff Attorney |

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 319 would amend the current authorization for Military Veteran special registration plates by specifying placement of design elements and by authorizing the plates to be issued on a full-color background.*

CURRENT LAW: The Division of Motor Vehicles is authorized to produce a Military Veteran special registration plate, which is issuable to a person who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States. Generally the fee for a special registration plate is the regular vehicle registration fee plus a \$10 special registration plate fee, but there is no additional special registration plate fee for the Military Veteran plate.

The plates are currently issued on a standard background with a special plate design that includes the words "U.S. Military Veteran" and the name and insignia of the branch of service in which the applicant served. For special plates on a standard background, there is a designated segment of the plate set aside for the design representing a special group or interest. The Division produces some special registration plates on backgrounds that are not standard. These full-color plates are specifically authorized and listed in G.S. 20-63(b1).

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 319 would amend the existing authorization for the Military Veteran special registration plate by:

- Authorizing the plate to be issued with a full-color background, rather than the current standard background.
- Specifying where design elements of the plate should be located, with the words "U.S. Military Veteran" being located across the top of the plate, and the branch name and insignia being located on the left side of the plate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective October 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND: The Military Veteran special registration plate was originally authorized by the General Assembly in 2001. In 2013, legislation was enacted to remove the additional special plate fee applicable to Military Veteran special plates. In 2015, legislation was enacted making the Military Veteran plate not subject to special plate application requirements and authorization expiration provisions.

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