

**Senate File 171 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 171

BY ERNST

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the issuance of special purple heart vehicle  
2 registration plates without fee, and providing an exemption  
3 from annual vehicle registration fees for recipients of the  
4 purple heart medal.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 35A.11, subsection 4, Code 2013, is  
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, subsection 18, Code 2013, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 18. *Purple heart special plates.*

6 a. An owner referred to in subsection 12 who was awarded  
7 a purple heart medal by the United States government for  
8 wounds received in military or naval combat against an armed  
9 enemy of the United States may, upon written application to  
10 the department and presentation of satisfactory proof of the  
11 award of the purple heart medal, order special registration  
12 plates with a purple heart processed emblem. The design of the  
13 emblem shall include a representation of a purple heart medal  
14 and ribbon. Each applicant applying for special registration  
15 plates under this subsection may order only one set of  
16 registration plates under this subsection. The application  
17 is subject to approval by the department in consultation with  
18 the adjutant general. ~~The special plate fees collected by the~~  
19 ~~director under subsection 12, paragraphs "a" and "c", from the~~  
20 ~~issuance and annual validation of letter-number designated and~~  
21 ~~personalized purple heart plates shall be paid monthly to the~~  
22 ~~treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax fund. The~~  
23 ~~treasurer of state shall transfer monthly from the statutory~~  
24 ~~allocations fund created under section 321.145, subsection 2,~~  
25 ~~to the veterans license fee fund created in section 35A.11~~  
26 ~~the amount of the special fees collected under subsection~~  
27 ~~12, paragraph "a", in the previous month for purple heart~~  
28 ~~plates. The special registration plates shall be issued at~~  
29 no charge to the applicant in exchange for the registration  
30 plates previously issued to the person, if any. A person who  
31 is issued special plates under this subsection is exempt from  
32 payment of any annual registration fee for the vehicle bearing  
33 the special plates.

34 b. The surviving spouse of a person who was issued special  
35 plates under this subsection may continue to use ~~or apply for~~

1 ~~and use~~ the special plates subject to registration of the  
2 special plates in the surviving spouse's name and upon payment  
3 of ~~the annual five-dollar special plate fee and~~ the regular  
4 annual registration fee for the vehicle. If the surviving  
5 spouse remarries, the surviving spouse shall return the special  
6 plates to the department and the department shall issue regular  
7 registration plates to the surviving spouse.

8 Sec. 3. Section 321.145, subsection 2, paragraph b,  
9 subparagraph (3), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:

10 (3) The amounts required to be transferred pursuant to  
11 section 321.34 from revenues available under this subsection  
12 shall be transferred and credited as provided in section  
13 321.34, subsections 7, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, 11B, 13, 16, 17,  
14 ~~18~~, 19, 20, 20A, 20B, 20C, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 for the  
15 various purposes specified in those subsections.

16 Sec. 4. PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PURPLE HEART REGISTRATION  
17 PLATES. It is the intent of the general assembly that owners  
18 of vehicles who were issued special purple heart registration  
19 plates prior to the effective date of this Act be permitted to  
20 continue using the plates on the vehicles for which the plates  
21 were issued. The following provisions apply to the owner of  
22 one or more vehicles bearing purple heart plates issued prior  
23 to the effective date of this Act:

24 1. The owner shall be exempt from the payment of any special  
25 plate renewal fee, special personalized plate renewal fee,  
26 and annual registration fee, as provided in section 321.34,  
27 subsection 18, as amended in this Act, for one vehicle bearing  
28 purple heart registration plates at the time of renewal of  
29 the vehicle registration. The owner may transfer the special  
30 plates to another vehicle upon assignment or transfer of  
31 ownership of the vehicle for which the special plates were  
32 issued.

33 2. If the owner has one or more additional vehicles bearing  
34 purple heart plates, the owner may continue to use the special  
35 purple heart plates for the vehicle for which the plates were



1 plates. The purple heart plates shall be issued without fee,  
2 and the owner of the vehicle bearing the special plates is  
3 exempt from payment of the annual registration fee for that  
4 vehicle. After the effective date of the bill, the issuance of  
5 personalized purple heart plates will be discontinued.

6 Under current law, the surviving spouse of a person who was  
7 issued special purple heart plates may continue to use or apply  
8 for and use special purple heart plates upon payment of the  
9 special plate fees and annual registration fee for the vehicle.  
10 The special plates must be surrendered if the surviving spouse  
11 remarries. Under the bill, a surviving spouse may continue to  
12 use the one set of special purple heart plates issued without  
13 fee.

14 The bill addresses previously issued purple heart plates  
15 by allowing the owner of one or more vehicles bearing purple  
16 heart plates issued prior to July 1, 2013, to be exempt from  
17 special plate fees and the annual registration fee for one such  
18 vehicle. For any additional vehicle currently bearing purple  
19 heart plates, the owner may continue to use the plates, but  
20 must pay the annual registration fee, and a personalized plate  
21 fee if applicable, and the plates must be surrendered upon  
22 assignment or transfer of ownership of the vehicle.

23 The bill applies on and after July 1, 2013, for new  
24 applications for purple heart registration plates. For purple  
25 heart plates issued prior to July 1, 2013, the new provisions  
26 apply at the time of registration renewal.