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HOUSE BILL NO. 2069

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Transportation
on January 21, 2021)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Delegates McQuinn and Walker [HB 1797])

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-742.2, 46.2-745.1, and 46.2-745.2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 46.2-725.3, 46.2-745.4, and 46.2-745.5, relating to special license plates; military decorations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 46.2-742.2, 46.2-745.1, and 46.2-745.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 46.2-725.3, 46.2-745.4, and 46.2-745.5 as follows:

§ 46.2-725.3. *Special license plates for recipients of certain military decorations.*

A. No special license plate for recipients of a military decoration shall be considered by the General Assembly unless and until the person or entity seeking the authorization of such special plate has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the General Assembly the order of precedence of such military decoration as determined by the federal Department of Defense or other relevant federal agency.

B. Any special license plate for recipients of a military decoration falling below the Medal of Honor and above the Purple Heart in order of precedence shall be authorized for issuance by the Department with a \$10 one-time fee in addition to the prescribed cost of state license plates. Any special license plate for recipients of a military decoration falling below the Purple Heart in the order of precedence shall be authorized for issuance by the Department with a \$10 annual special license plate fee in addition to the prescribed cost of state license plates. Special license plates for recipients of the Purple Heart shall be issued as provided in § 46.2-742. The Department is authorized to issue an additional plate reflecting the "V" for Valor for any plate that the federal Department of Defense or other relevant federal agency has determined is eligible for the "V" for Valor Device.

C. Notwithstanding § 46.2-725, special license plates for the recipients of a military decoration are exempt from subdivisions B 1 and 2 of § 46.2-725. Unmarried surviving spouses of individuals eligible to receive such special license plates are also authorized to receive such special license plates.

§ 46.2-742.2. *Special license plates for persons awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, or the Distinguished Flying Cross with a "V" for Valor.*

On receipt of an application and written evidence that the applicant has been awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force Cross, or the Distinguished Flying Cross, or the Distinguished Flying Cross with a "V" for Valor, the Commissioner shall issue to the applicant special license plates.

The provisions of subdivisions B 1 and 2 of subsection B of § 46.2-725 shall not apply to license plates issued under this section.

Unmarried surviving spouses of persons eligible to receive special license plates under this section may also be issued special license plates under this section.

The design of license plates issued under this section to persons who have been awarded multiple decorations shall reflect the number of such decorations.

For each set of license plates issued under this section the Commissioner shall charge, in addition to the prescribed cost of state license plates, a one-time fee of \$10 at the time the plates are issued.

§ 46.2-745.1. *Special license plates for persons awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Airman's Medal, the Army Soldier's Medal, or the Coast Guard Medal.*

On receipt of an application and written confirmation from one of the armed services of the United States that the applicant has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the Airman's Medal, the Army Soldier's Medal, or the Coast Guard Medal, the Commissioner shall issue special license plates to such persons. No fee shall be charged for the issuance of these license plates under this section to any one motor vehicle owned and used personally by any applicant. For each additional set of license plates issued to an applicant under this section, the Commissioner shall charge the prescribed fee for state license plates. For each set of license plates issued under this section, the Commissioner shall charge, in addition to the prescribed cost of state license plates, a one-time fee of \$10 at the time the plates are issued.

It shall be unlawful for any person who is not a person described in this section to willfully and falsely represent himself as having the qualifications to obtain the special license plates herein provided for.

The provisions of subdivisions B 1 and 2 of § 46.2-725 shall not apply to license plates issued under

60 this section.

61 Unremarried surviving spouses of persons eligible to receive special license plates under this section
62 may also be issued special license plates under this section.

63 **§ 46.2-745.2. Special license plates for persons awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.**

64 On receipt of an application and written confirmation from one of the armed services that the
65 applicant has been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Commissioner shall issue
66 special license plates to such persons ~~and to unremarried surviving spouses of such persons.~~

67 For each set of plates issued under this section, the Commissioner shall charge, in addition to the
68 prescribed cost of state license plates, a ~~one-time~~ *an annual* fee of \$10 ~~at the time the plates are issued.~~

69 It shall be unlawful for any person who is not a person described in this section to willfully and
70 falsely represent himself as having the qualifications to obtain the special license plates herein provided
71 for.

72 The provisions of subdivisions B 1 and 2 of § 46.2-725 shall not apply to license plates issued under
73 this section.

74 Unremarried surviving spouses of persons eligible to receive special license plates under this section
75 may also be issued special license plates under this section.

76 **§ 46.2-745.4. Special license plates for persons awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy
77 Distinguished Service Medal, the Marine Corps Distinguished Service Medal, or the Air Force
78 Distinguished Service Medal.**

79 On receipt of an application and written confirmation from one of the armed services that the
80 applicant has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the
81 Marine Corps Distinguished Service Medal, or the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the
82 Commissioner shall issue special license plates to such persons.

83 For each set of plates issued under this section, the Commissioner shall charge, in addition to the
84 prescribed cost of state license plates, a one-time fee of \$10 at the time the plates are issued.

85 It shall be unlawful for any person who is not a person described in this section to willfully and
86 falsely represent himself as having the qualifications to obtain the special license plates herein provided
87 for.

88 The provisions of subdivisions B 1 and 2 of § 46.2-725 shall not apply to license plates issued under
89 this section.

90 Unremarried surviving spouses of persons eligible to receive special license plates under this section
91 may also be issued special license plates under this section.

92 **§ 46.2-745.5. Special license plates for persons awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal
93 or the Defense Superior Service Medal.**

94 On receipt of an application and written confirmation from one of the armed services that the
95 applicant has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal or the Defense Superior Service
96 Medal, the Commissioner shall issue special license plates to such persons.

97 For each set of plates issued under this section, the Commissioner shall charge, in addition to the
98 prescribed cost of state license plates, a one-time fee of \$10 at the time the plates are issued.

99 It shall be unlawful for any person who is not a person described in this section to willfully and
100 falsely represent himself as having the qualifications to obtain the special license plates herein provided
101 for.

102 The provisions of subdivisions B 1 and 2 of § 46.2-725 shall not apply to license plates issued under
103 this section.

104 Unremarried surviving spouses of persons eligible to receive special license plates under this section
105 may also be issued special license plates under this section.

106 **2. That all license plates issued pursuant to § 46.2-745.1 or 46.2-745.2 of the Code of Virginia prior
107 to July 1, 2021, shall remain valid until their expiration and shall be renewed under the provisions
108 of § 46.2-745.1 or 46.2-745.2 of the Code of Virginia as they existed prior to July 1, 2021.**