



2025 SENATE BILL 38

February 12, 2025 - Introduced by Senators HUTTON, CARPENTER, BRADLEY, SPREITZER and RATCLIFF, cosponsored by Representatives WICHGERS, ALLEN, BEHNKE, B. JACOBSON, KNODL, KREIBICH, MAXEY, MELOTIK, MURSAU, SINICKI, SNYDER, TUSLER and UDELL. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Local Government.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 341.145 (3) of the statutes; **relating to:** personalized
2 registration plate fees for gold star family special registration plates.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill exempts special group plates for gold star families from personalized registration plate fees.

Current law enumerates special groups whose members may obtain from the Department of Transportation special motor vehicle registration plates. Among the special groups is a group for persons who qualify under federal law for a gold star lapel button (commonly known as gold star family), which signifies that the recipient is the immediate family member of a member of the U.S. armed forces who died while serving during a time of conflict. Special group plates may be personalized by the person to whom the plates are issued.

Under current law, DOT collects a registration fee for initial and renewal registrations of most motor vehicles. In addition to the regular registration fee, DOT charges an annual fee of \$15 for the issuance or reissuance of most special registration plates and an additional annual fee of \$15 for the issuance, maintenance, or reissuance of most personalized plates.

Under current law, gold star special registration plate holders must pay the general registration fee, but are not assessed the special registration fee. If the plate holder personalizes the plate, he or she is assessed the \$15 personalization

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fee. The bill exempts special group plates for gold star families from the personalization fee.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 341.145 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 341.145 (3) In addition to the regular application fee provided under s. 341.25
3 (1) (a), (c) or (j) or (2) or 341.26 (3) (a) 2. or (am), the applicant for a personalized
4 registration plate issued on an annual basis shall pay a fee of \$15 for the issuance of
5 the plate and \$15 in each succeeding year to maintain the plate. In addition to the
6 regular application fee provided under s. 341.25 (1) (b) or 341.26 (3) (a) 1., the
7 applicant for a personalized registration plate issued on a biennial basis shall pay a
8 fee of \$30 for issuance of the plate if the plate is issued during the first year of the
9 biennial registration period or \$15 for issuance of the plate if the plate is issued
10 during the 2nd year of the biennial registration period. The fee to maintain a
11 personalized plate issued on a biennial basis is \$30. The fee for reissuance of a
12 personalized plate shall be \$15 for an annual registration and \$30 for a biennial
13 registration. ~~An~~ No fee may be charged to an applicant for personalized plates
14 issued under sub. (1) (b) or (c) shall not be required to pay the fee (1g) (a) or (b) for
15 initial issuance of the plates. No fee may be charged to a member of a special group
16 specified under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m. for maintenance or reissuance of plates issued
17 under sub. (1g) (b) displaying the applicable symbol of the special group specified
18 under s. 341.14 (6r) (f) 19m.

19 **SECTION 2. Effective date.**

