



Am. S.B. 211

126th General Assembly
(As Passed by the Senate)

Sens. Carey, Stivers, Niehaus, Gardner, Jordan, Mumper, Fedor, Spada, Clancy, Padgett, Fingerhut, Amstutz, Dann, Hagan, Schuring, Wachtmann, Armbruster, Austria, Cates, Goodman, Harris, Hottinger, Kearney, Roberts, Schuler, Zurz, Jacobson, Prentiss

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates a "Gold Star Family" license plate, available for an additional \$10 administrative fee to any member of the immediate family of a person who died in a combat zone while serving in any branch of the armed forces of the United States.
- Allows local jurisdictions to request the Director of Transportation to designate a name for a bridge that is part of the state highway system.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

"Gold Star Family" license plate

The bill allows any member of the immediate family of a person who died in a combat zone while a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States to apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles for the registration of any passenger car, noncommercial motor vehicle, motor home, or other vehicle of a class approved by the Registrar that the family member owns or leases and for issuance of "Gold Star Family" license plates for that motor vehicle. The bill defines "member of the immediate family" as all of the following: (1) a spouse, (2) a parent, stepparent, or other person who acted in loco parentis, (3) a sibling, whether of the whole or half-blood, or by adoption, and (4) a child, including those by adoption, or a stepchild. (Sec. 4503.546(A) and (E).)

The request for "Gold Star Family" license plates may be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate provided in current law. Upon receipt of a complete application and compliance with the bill's requirements, the Registrar is required to issue to the applicant the appropriate vehicle registration and a set of "Gold Star Family" license plates with a validation sticker or a

validation sticker alone when required by current law. In addition to the letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed on the license plates, "Gold Star Family" license plates must be inscribed with a gold star and the words "Gold Star Family." The license plates must bear county identification stickers that identify the county of registration by name or number. (Sec. 4503.546(A).)

"Gold Star Family" license plates and validation stickers are issued upon payment of the regular license tax prescribed in current law, any applicable local motor vehicle tax, any applicable additional special reserved license plate fee, an additional Bureau of Motor Vehicles fee not exceeding \$10, and compliance with all other applicable laws relating to the registration of motor vehicles (sec. 4503.761(B)). The additional BMV fee is to compensate the Bureau for additional services required in issuing "Gold Star Family" license plates. The Registrar must deposit all these fees into the state treasury to the credit of the existing State Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund. (Sec. 4503.546(B) and (C).)

The bill prohibits any person who is not a member of the immediate family of a person who died in a combat zone while a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States from willfully and falsely representing that the person is such a family member for the purpose of obtaining license plates under this section, but does not establish a penalty for violation of the prohibition (sec. 4503.546(D)).

Administrative bridge naming

Current law allows any highway that is part of the state highway system to be officially assigned a distinctive name within a county. The name must be commemorative of a historical event or personage or a commonly accepted and appropriate name. The governing bodies of the county and each township and municipal corporation within the county through which the highway extends, upon agreement, may submit a request to the Director of Transportation for approval of the highway name. The Director has 30 days to inform the local governments of his decision, and the agreement of the local governments may not be withdrawn or amended during the time the request is pending.

If the Director approves the request, the requesting authority may, at its own expense, erect appropriate markers indicating the name of the highway within the county. Only one name per county may be assigned to a highway under current law, and the name must apply to the entire extension of the highway within the county. The assigned highway name may be altered or abolished, with the Director's approval, in the same manner as provided for assignment of the original name.

Current law specifies that it does not restrict the authority of a municipal corporation to designate the name of a state highway within the municipal corporation. If a municipal corporation names a highway within the municipal corporation, no other name may be assigned to that highway under current law.

The bill extends this current administrative procedure for naming state highways to naming bridges on state highways. Under the bill, no bridge may have more than one name in a county and no bridge may be named under the bill's provisions if the municipal corporation within which the bridge is located has named the bridge. (Sec. 5511.09.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-26-05
Reported, S. Highways & Transportation	01-25-06
Passed Senate (31-0)	02-07-06

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