

SESSION OF 2005

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2310**

As Agreed to March 30, 2005

Brief *

HB 2310 pertains to motorcycle license plates issued to a recipient of a purple heart medal; to military decals placed on license plates; and to a distinctive license plate issued to a civilian prisoner of war. Specifically, the bill would:

- allow the owner or lessee of a motorcycle who has been awarded a purple heart medal to be issued a license plate designating the applicant as a recipient of such medal (effective July 1, 2005);
- allow a person issued a purple heart, or a U.S. military veteran license plate and who was awarded a silver star or bronze star medal, to request a decal for each license plate indicating the person was a recipient of a silver or bronze star medal (effective July 1, 2005);
- add the combat medical badge, army combat infantry badge, navy/marine corps combat action ribbon, army distinguished service cross, navy cross, air force cross, distinguished flying cross, to the list of decals that can be issued and displayed on a veteran or purple heart license plate;
- provide that the decals would be issued on and after January 1, 2006;
- require the applicant to pay \$2 for each decal;
- require the Director of Vehicles to design the decals;

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- provide that the decals would be affixed to the license plate in the location required by the Director; and
- provide that not more than two decals could be affixed to any one license plate.

The bill also would change the definition of “Prisoner of War” to include any civilian who was held as a prisoner of war. The change would allow these persons to apply for one distinctive license plate designating such person as a prisoner of war.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed, at the urging of the Division of Vehicles, to delete a portion of a Senate Committee of the Whole amendment that would have authorized the issuance of decals to civilian prisoners of war. (The portion of the Senate Committee of the Whole amendment expanding the definition to include certain civilians was retained.) The Director of Vehicles testified to the Conference Committee about the documentation process regarding prisoners of war and observed that she did not anticipate a large increase in the number of eligible persons as a result of expanding the definition to include civilian prisoners of war.

Background

HB 2310 was introduced and supported by Representative Burgess. Other conferees who appeared before the House Transportation Committee in support of the bill included Kris Ailsieger, an Army Reservist, and Charles Yunker, Adjunct for the Kansas American Legion. Carmen Alldritt, Director of Vehicles, presented informational testimony. No one testified against the bill.

Conferees who testified in favor of the bill before the Senate Transportation Committee included Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Representative Mike Burgess, and Kris Ailsieger. Carmen Alldritt, Director of Vehicles, presented informational testimony.

The House Transportation Committee amendment would add combat medical badge, army combat infantry badge, and

navy/marine corps combat action ribbon to the list of decals that can be used and displayed on a veteran license plate.

The Senate Transportation Committee added the provisions relating to motorcycles (formerly in HB 2298), the provision regarding decals on license plates for recipients of a silver star or bronze star medal, and the requirements concerning the location and the acceptable number of decals on the license plate.

The Senate Committee of the Whole had added the provision concerning the definition of "Prisoner of War" to include civilian prisoners of war and additional language that would have authorized the issuance of decals to such persons.

The original fiscal note states the price of the decal is \$2 each, which would cover the costs associated with manufacturing the decals. Programming to implement the new decals would require negligible changes to the Vehicle Information Processing System and negligible testing in the Titles and Registration Bureau. All costs can be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect resulting from enactment of the bill is not accounted for in *The FY 2006 Governor's Budget Report*.