



March 3, 2021

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL No. 1039

DIGEST OF HB 1039 (Updated March 2, 2021 10:33 am - DI 133)

Citations Affected: IC 9-18.5.

Synopsis: Military award license plates. Provides that the surviving spouse of a Purple Heart recipient may retain the Purple Heart specialty license plate as long as the surviving spouse does not remarry. Specifies that the surviving spouse is not eligible to receive a modified disability registration plate. Establishes the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal specialty license plate.

Effective: July 1, 2021.

Judy, Abbott, Frye R, Morris

(SENATE SPONSORS — ZAY, BUSCH, GARTEN)

January 4, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.
January 28, 2021, amended, reported — Do Pass.
February 2, 2021, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed.
February 4, 2021, read third time, passed. Yeas 95, nays 0.

SENATE ACTION

February 18, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.
March 2, 2021, reported favorably — Do Pass.

EH 1039—LS 6353/DI 139



March 3, 2021

First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL No. 1039

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 9-18.5-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.256-2017,
2 SECTION 133, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 1. (a) A person may apply to the
4 bureau for a personalized license plate to display on the person's
5 vehicle.
6 (b) The following license plates may be designed as a personalized
7 license plate under this chapter:
8 (1) IC 9-18.5-4 (prisoner of war license plates).
9 (2) IC 9-18.5-5 (disabled Hoosier veteran license plates).
10 (3) IC 9-18.5-6 (Purple Heart license plates).
11 (4) IC 9-18.5-7 (National Guard license plates).
12 (5) IC 9-18.5-8 (license plates for persons with disabilities).
13 (6) IC 9-18.5-9 (amateur radio operator license plates).
14 (7) IC 9-18.5-10 (civic event license plates).
15 (8) IC 9-18.5-11 (In God We Trust license plates).
16 (9) IC 9-18.5-12 (special group recognition license plates).
17 (10) IC 9-18.5-13 (environmental license plates).

EH 1039—LS 6353/DI 139



- 1 (11) IC 9-18.5-14 (kids first trust license plates).
 2 (12) IC 9-18.5-15 (education license plates).
 3 (13) IC 9-18.5-16 (Indiana FFA trust license plates).
 4 (14) IC 9-18.5-17 (Indiana firefighter license plates).
 5 (15) IC 9-18.5-18 (Indiana boy scouts trust license plates).
 6 (16) IC 9-18.5-19 (D.A.R.E. Indiana trust license plates).
 7 (17) IC 9-18.5-20 (Indiana arts trust license plates).
 8 (18) IC 9-18.5-21 (Indiana health trust license plates).
 9 (19) IC 9-18.5-22 (Indiana Native American trust license plates).
 10 (20) IC 9-18.5-24 (Pearl Harbor survivor license plates).
 11 (21) IC 9-18.5-25 (Indiana state educational institution trust
 12 license plates).
 13 (22) IC 9-18.5-26 (Lewis and Clark expedition license plates).
 14 (23) IC 9-18.5-27 (Riley Children's Foundation license plates).
 15 (24) IC 9-18.5-28 (National Football League franchised
 16 professional football team license plates).
 17 (25) IC 9-18.5-29 (Hoosier veteran license plates).
 18 (26) IC 9-18.5-30 (support our troops license plates).
 19 (27) IC 9-18.5-31 (Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home license
 20 plates).
 21 (28) IC 9-18.5-32 (Earlham College Trust license plates).
 22 (29) IC 9-18.5-33 (Indiana Gold Star family member license
 23 plates).
 24 **(30) IC 9-18.5-35 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license**
 25 **plates).**
 26 ~~(30)~~ **(31)** A license plate issued under IC 9-18 (before its
 27 expiration) or IC 9-18.1.
 28 SECTION 2. IC 9-18.5-6-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.198-2016,
 29 SECTION 327, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 30 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 1. (a) The bureau shall design a
 31 license plate that will designate a vehicle as being registered to:
 32 **(1) an individual; or**
 33 **(2) the surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of an**
 34 **individual;**
 35 who has been awarded a Purple Heart decoration.
 36 (b) Upon proper application, the bureau may modify a license plate
 37 designed under subsection ~~(a)~~ **(a)(1)** to designate a vehicle as being
 38 registered to an individual who is:
 39 (1) described in subsection ~~(a)~~ **(a)(1)**; and
 40 (2) eligible to be issued:
 41 (A) a placard under IC 9-14-5 (before its repeal) or
 42 IC 9-18.5-8; or



1 (B) a person with a disability registration plate under
2 IC 9-18.5-8.

3 **An individual described in subsection (a)(2) is not eligible to**
4 **receive a modified license plate under this subsection.**

5 (c) An individual who:

6 (1) knowingly; or

7 (2) intentionally;

8 falsely professes to have the qualifications to obtain a license plate
9 under subsection (b) commits a Class C misdemeanor.

10 (d) An individual who owns a vehicle bearing a license plate issued
11 under subsection (b) and knows that the individual is not entitled to a
12 license plate issued under subsection (b) commits a Class C
13 misdemeanor.

14 SECTION 3. IC 9-18.5-6-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.198-2016,
15 SECTION 327, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
16 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 2. An Indiana resident who:

17 **(1) is a recipient of; or**

18 **(2) is the surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of a**
19 **recipient of;**

20 a Purple Heart decoration may apply for and receive one (1) or more
21 Purple Heart plates.

22 SECTION 4. IC 9-18.5-12-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.147-2018,
23 SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
24 JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 2. This chapter does not apply to the following:

25 (1) Historic vehicle license plates (IC 9-18.5-34).

26 (2) Personalized license plates (IC 9-18.5-2).

27 (3) Disabled Hoosier veteran license plates (IC 9-18.5-5).

28 (4) Purple Heart license plates (IC 9-18.5-6).

29 (5) National Guard license plates (IC 9-18.5-7).

30 (6) Person with a disability license plates (IC 9-18.5-8).

31 (7) Amateur radio operator license plates (IC 9-18.5-9).

32 (8) In God We Trust license plates (IC 9-18.5-11).

33 (9) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates (IC 9-18.5-24).

34 (10) Lewis and Clark expedition license plates (IC 9-18.5-26).

35 (11) National Football League franchised football team license
36 plates (IC 9-18.5-28).

37 (12) Hoosier veteran license plates (IC 9-18.5-29).

38 (13) Support our troops license plates (IC 9-18.5-30).

39 (14) Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home license plates (IC
40 9-18.5-31).

41 (15) Indiana Gold Star family member license plates (IC
42 9-18.5-33).



- 1 **(16) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plates (IC**
 2 **9-18.5-35).**
 3 SECTION 5. IC 9-18.5-35 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
 4 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 5 JULY 1, 2021]:
 6 **Chapter 35. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal License Plate**
 7 **Sec. 1. The bureau shall design an Armed Forces Expeditionary**
 8 **Medal license plate that includes the following:**
 9 (1) A basic design for the plate with consecutive numbers or
 10 letters, or both, to properly identify the vehicle.
 11 (2) A background design, an emblem, or colors that designate
 12 the license plate as an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
 13 license plate.
 14 (3) An area on the plate for display of an emblem denoting the
 15 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
 16 (4) Any other information the bureau considers necessary.
 17 **Sec. 2. The bureau shall confer with members of armed forces**
 18 **retiree organizations concerning the design of the:**
 19 (1) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plate; and
 20 (2) emblem used to denote the Armed Forces Expeditionary
 21 Medal.
 22 **Sec. 3. (a) An individual who registers a vehicle under this title**
 23 **may apply for and receive an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**
 24 **license plate for one (1) or more vehicles upon doing the following:**
 25 (1) Completing an application for an Armed Forces
 26 Expeditionary Medal license plate.
 27 (2) Presenting one (1) of the following to the bureau that
 28 shows the individual has been awarded the Armed Forces
 29 Expeditionary Medal:
 30 (A) A DD 214 or DD 215 record.
 31 (B) United States military discharge papers.
 32 (C) A current armed forces identification card.
 33 (3) Paying a fee in the amount of fifteen dollars (\$15).
 34 (b) The bureau shall distribute the fee described in subsection
 35 (a)(3) to the director of veterans' affairs for deposit in the military
 36 family relief fund established under IC 10-17-12-8.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Roads and Transportation, to which was referred House Bill 1039, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 9-18.5-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.256-2017, SECTION 133, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 1. (a) A person may apply to the bureau for a personalized license plate to display on the person's vehicle.

(b) The following license plates may be designed as a personalized license plate under this chapter:

- (1) IC 9-18.5-4 (prisoner of war license plates).
- (2) IC 9-18.5-5 (disabled Hoosier veteran license plates).
- (3) IC 9-18.5-6 (Purple Heart license plates).
- (4) IC 9-18.5-7 (National Guard license plates).
- (5) IC 9-18.5-8 (license plates for persons with disabilities).
- (6) IC 9-18.5-9 (amateur radio operator license plates).
- (7) IC 9-18.5-10 (civic event license plates).
- (8) IC 9-18.5-11 (In God We Trust license plates).
- (9) IC 9-18.5-12 (special group recognition license plates).
- (10) IC 9-18.5-13 (environmental license plates).
- (11) IC 9-18.5-14 (kids first trust license plates).
- (12) IC 9-18.5-15 (education license plates).
- (13) IC 9-18.5-16 (Indiana FFA trust license plates).
- (14) IC 9-18.5-17 (Indiana firefighter license plates).
- (15) IC 9-18.5-18 (Indiana boy scouts trust license plates).
- (16) IC 9-18.5-19 (D.A.R.E. Indiana trust license plates).
- (17) IC 9-18.5-20 (Indiana arts trust license plates).
- (18) IC 9-18.5-21 (Indiana health trust license plates).
- (19) IC 9-18.5-22 (Indiana Native American trust license plates).
- (20) IC 9-18.5-24 (Pearl Harbor survivor license plates).
- (21) IC 9-18.5-25 (Indiana state educational institution trust license plates).
- (22) IC 9-18.5-26 (Lewis and Clark expedition license plates).
- (23) IC 9-18.5-27 (Riley Children's Foundation license plates).
- (24) IC 9-18.5-28 (National Football League franchised professional football team license plates).
- (25) IC 9-18.5-29 (Hoosier veteran license plates).



(26) IC 9-18.5-30 (support our troops license plates).

(27) IC 9-18.5-31 (Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home license plates).

(28) IC 9-18.5-32 (Earlham College Trust license plates).

(29) IC 9-18.5-33 (Indiana Gold Star family member license plates).

(30) IC 9-18.5-35 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plates).

~~(30)~~ **(31)** A license plate issued under IC 9-18 (before its expiration) or IC 9-18.1."

Page 1, line 6, after "spouse" insert "**(who has not remarried)**".

Page 1, line 9, strike "(a)" and insert "**(a)(1)**".

Page 1, line 11, strike "(a)" and insert "**(a)(1)**".

Page 1, between lines 16 and 17, begin a new line blocked left and insert:

"An individual described in subsection (a)(2) is not eligible to receive a modified license plate under this subsection."

Page 2, line 13, after "spouse" insert "**(who has not remarried)**".

Page 2, after line 15, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 4. IC 9-18.5-12-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.147-2018, SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: Sec. 2. This chapter does not apply to the following:

- (1) Historic vehicle license plates (IC 9-18.5-34).
- (2) Personalized license plates (IC 9-18.5-2).
- (3) Disabled Hoosier veteran license plates (IC 9-18.5-5).
- (4) Purple Heart license plates (IC 9-18.5-6).
- (5) National Guard license plates (IC 9-18.5-7).
- (6) Person with a disability license plates (IC 9-18.5-8).
- (7) Amateur radio operator license plates (IC 9-18.5-9).
- (8) In God We Trust license plates (IC 9-18.5-11).
- (9) Pearl Harbor survivor license plates (IC 9-18.5-24).
- (10) Lewis and Clark expedition license plates (IC 9-18.5-26).
- (11) National Football League franchised football team license plates (IC 9-18.5-28).
- (12) Hoosier veteran license plates (IC 9-18.5-29).
- (13) Support our troops license plates (IC 9-18.5-30).
- (14) Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home license plates (IC 9-18.5-31).
- (15) Indiana Gold Star family member license plates (IC 9-18.5-33).
- (16) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plates (IC 9-18.5-35).**



SECTION 5. IC 9-18.5-35 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]:

Chapter 35. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal License Plate

Sec. 1. The bureau shall design an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plate that includes the following:

- (1) A basic design for the plate with consecutive numbers or letters, or both, to properly identify the vehicle.
- (2) A background design, an emblem, or colors that designate the license plate as an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plate.
- (3) An area on the plate for display of an emblem denoting the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
- (4) Any other information the bureau considers necessary.

Sec. 2. The bureau shall confer with members of armed forces retiree organizations concerning the design of the:

- (1) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plate; and
- (2) emblem used to denote the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Sec. 3. (a) An individual who registers a vehicle under this title may apply for and receive an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plate for one (1) or more vehicles upon doing the following:

- (1) Completing an application for an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal license plate.
- (2) Presenting one (1) of the following to the bureau that shows the individual has been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal:
 - (A) A DD 214 or DD 215 record.
 - (B) United States military discharge papers.
 - (C) A current armed forces identification card.
- (3) Paying a fee in the amount of fifteen dollars (\$15).

(b) The bureau shall distribute the fee described in subsection (a)(3) to the director of veterans' affairs for deposit in the military family relief fund established under IC 10-17-12-8."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1039 as introduced.)

PRESSEL

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 0.

EH 1039—LS 6353/DI 139



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation, to which was referred House Bill No. 1039, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill DO PASS.

(Reference is to HB 1039 as printed Digest Correction January 28, 2021.)

CRIDER, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 6, Nays 1

