

SENATE BILL 232

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, relative to license plates for members of the Tennessee state guard.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c), is amended by adding a new subdivision thereto, as follows:

- (8) Tennessee State Guard;
 - (A) Enlisted;
 - (B) Honorably discharged members;
 - (C) Officers; and
 - (D) Retirees;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203(a)(4), is amended by deleting subdivision (E) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

- (E) Tennessee state guard -- as provided for in § 55-4-270;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-270(a), is amended by deleting the language "and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203," and by substituting instead the language "and paying the fees in subsection (i) of this section,".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-270, is amended by deleting subsection (d) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

- (d) If a holder of a special purpose plate is discharged from the Tennessee state guard prior to the expiration of the registration under which the plate was issued, the special purpose plate may remain valid for display on the vehicle until the expiration date of the registration, unless it was issued under the tax- exempt allowance. All plates that

are issued under the tax-exempt allowance shall be surrendered to the Tennessee state guard when the holders of the plates are discharged from service.

(e) This authority for the use of special purpose license plates is not intended to allow the holders of the special purpose license plate to operate vehicles on which they are displayed in violation of state or local laws or ordinances which govern and relate to the use of motor vehicles.

(f) All applications from retired Tennessee state guard members shall contain information as the commissioner shall require to prove eligibility for issuance of a license plate. Eligibility for a special purpose registration plate for Tennessee state guard retirees shall be determined by the department, in consultation with the adjutant general or the commanding officer of the Tennessee state guard.

(h) All applications from honorably discharged Tennessee state guard members shall contain such information as the commissioner shall require to prove eligibility for issuance of a license plate. Eligibility for a special purpose registration plate for honorably discharged Tennessee state guard members shall be determined by the department, in consultation with the appropriate information on an applicant's current and valid armed forces of Tennessee identification card.

(i)

(1) The fees imposed for registrations using the special purpose plates shall be as follows:

(A) For enlisted Tennessee state guard members there shall be no tax (fee) for registering the first vehicle and the regular license fee shall be collected for any additional vehicles;

(B) For Tennessee state guard officers the tax (fee) shall be the regular license fee for each vehicle;

(C) For Tennessee state guard retirees, the initial issuance of a special purpose plate and renewals shall be made upon payment of the regular registration fee applicable to the vehicle and a fee equal to the

cost of producing the special purpose plate; provided, that the issuance of the plates shall be revenue neutral; and

(D) For honorably discharged Tennessee state guard members, the initial issuance of a special purpose plate and renewals shall be made upon payment of the regular registration fee applicable to the vehicle and a fee equal to the cost of producing the special purpose plate; provided, however, that the issuance of the plates shall be revenue neutral.

(2) The county clerk in effecting registrations through the use of these special purpose plates shall collect other fees that have application for all registrations, such as service charges provided in § 55-6-104 and reassignment fees when applicable.

(3) If a holder of a special purpose plate is discharged from the Tennessee state guard prior to the expiration of the registration under which the plate was issued, the special purpose plate may remain valid for display on the vehicle until the expiration date of the registration, unless it was issued under the tax-exempt allowance. All plates that are issued under the tax-exempt allowance shall be surrendered to the Tennessee state guard when the holders of the plates are discharged from service.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to new applications for license plates and to license plate renewals as they come due.