

REFERENCE TITLE: bronze star medal license plates

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2127

Introduced by
Representatives Carter N: Gress

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 28-2351 AND 28-2403, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 28, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 13, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 28-2477; AMENDING SECTIONS 28-6501 AND 41-608, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO HONORED MILITARY LICENSE PLATES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 28-2351, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 28-2351. License plate provided; design

5 A. Notwithstanding any other law, the department shall provide to
6 every owner one license plate for each vehicle registered. At the request
7 of the owner and on payment of a fee in an amount prescribed by the
8 director by rule, the department shall provide one additional license
9 plate for a vehicle for which a special plate is requested pursuant to
10 this chapter.

11 B. The license plate shall display the number assigned to the
12 vehicle and to the owner of the vehicle and the name of this state, which
13 may be abbreviated. The director shall coat the license plate with a
14 reflective material that is consistent with the determination of the
15 department regarding the color and design of license plates and special
16 plates. The director shall design the license plate and the letters and
17 numerals on the license plate to be of sufficient size to be plainly
18 readable during daylight from a distance of one hundred feet. In addition
19 to the standard license plate issued for a trailer before August 12, 2005,
20 the director shall issue a license plate for trailers that has a design
21 that is similar to the standard size license plate for trailers but that
22 is the same size as the license plate for motorcycles. The trailer owner
23 shall notify the department which size license plate the owner wants for
24 the trailer.

25 C. In addition to the requirements prescribed in subsection B of
26 this section, for all license plates, including all special plates, that
27 are designed or redesigned on or after September 24, 2022:

28 1. The background color of the license plate shall contrast
29 significantly with the color of the letters and numerals on the license
30 plate and with the name of this state on the license plate.

31 2. The name of this state shall appear on the license plate in
32 capital letters in sans serif font and be three-fourths of an inch in
33 height.

34 D. Notwithstanding any other law, the department shall not contract
35 with a nongovernmental entity to purchase or secure reflective material
36 for the plates issued by the department unless the department has made a
37 reasonable effort to secure qualified bids or proposals from as many
38 individual responsible respondents as possible.

39 E. The department shall determine the color and design of the
40 license plate subject to the requirements prescribed by subsections B and
41 C of this section. All plates issued by the department, except the plates
42 that are issued pursuant to sections 28-2404, 28-2412, 28-2413, 28-2414,
43 28-2416, 28-2416.01, 28-2417 through 28-2470.39, 28-2472, 28-2473,
44 28-2474, 28-2475, 28-2476, 28-2477 and 28-4533 and article 14 of this

1 chapter, shall be the same color as and similar in design to the license
2 plate as determined by the department.

3 F. A passenger motor vehicle that is rented without a driver shall
4 receive the same type of license plate as is issued for a private
5 passenger motor vehicle.

6 Sec. 2. Section 28-2403, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
7 read:

8 28-2403. Special plates; transfers; violation; classification

9 A. Except as otherwise provided in this article, the department
10 shall issue or renew special plates in lieu of the regular license plates
11 pursuant to the following conditions and procedures and only if the
12 requirements prescribed by this article for the requested special plates
13 are met:

14 1. Except as provided in sections 28-2416 and 28-2416.01, a person
15 who is the registered owner of a vehicle registered with the department or
16 who applies for an original or renewal registration of a vehicle may
17 submit to the department a completed application form as prescribed by the
18 department with the fee prescribed by section 28-2402 for special plates
19 in addition to the registration fee prescribed by section 28-2003.

20 2. Except for plates issued pursuant to sections 28-2404, 28-2412,
21 28-2413, 28-2414, 28-2416, 28-2416.01, 28-2417 through 28-2470.39,
22 28-2472, 28-2473, 28-2474, 28-2475, ~~and~~ 28-2476 AND 28-2477 and article 14
23 of this chapter, the special plates shall be the same color as and similar
24 to the design of the regular license plates that is determined by the
25 department.

26 3. Except as provided in section 28-2416, the department shall
27 issue special plates only to the owner or lessee of a vehicle that is
28 currently registered, including any vehicle that has a declared gross
29 weight, as defined in section 28-5431, of twenty-six thousand pounds or
30 less.

31 4. Except as provided in sections 28-2416 and 28-2416.01, the
32 department shall charge the fee prescribed by section 28-2402 for each
33 annual renewal of special plates in addition to the registration fee
34 prescribed by section 28-2003.

35 B. Except as provided in sections 28-2416 and 28-2416.01, on
36 notification to the department and on payment of the transfer fee
37 prescribed by section 28-2402, a person who is issued special plates may
38 transfer the special plates to another vehicle the person owns or leases.
39 Persons who are issued special plates for hearing impaired persons
40 pursuant to section 28-2408 and international symbol of access special
41 plates pursuant to section 28-2409 are exempt from the transfer fee. If a
42 person who is issued special plates sells, trades or otherwise releases
43 ownership of the vehicle on which the plates have been displayed, the
44 person shall immediately report the transfer of the plates to the
45 department or the person shall surrender the plates to the department as

prescribed by the director. It is unlawful for a person to whom the plates have been issued to knowingly allow them to be displayed on a vehicle except the vehicle authorized by the department.

C. The special plates shall be affixed to the vehicle for which registration is sought in lieu of the regular license plates.

D. A person is guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor who:

1. Violates subsection B of this section.

2. Fraudulently gives false or fictitious information in the application for or renewal of special plates or placards issued pursuant to this article.

3. Conceals a material fact or otherwise commits fraud in the application for or renewal of special plates or placards issued pursuant to this article.

Sec. 3. Title 28, chapter 7, article 13, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 28-2477, to read:

28-2477. Bronze star medal license plates; fees

A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE DISTINCTIVE LICENSE PLATES TO:

1. A PERSON WHO SUBMITS SATISFACTORY PROOF TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE PERSON IS A VETERAN AND A BONA FIDE BRONZE STAR MEDAL RECIPIENT.

2. AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN ISSUED A LICENSE PLATE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

B. FOR EACH ORIGINAL LICENSE PLATE ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT A FEE OF \$25 IN ADDITION TO THE REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 28-2003. FOR EACH ANNUAL RENEWAL OF LICENSE PLATES ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CHARGE A FEE OF \$5 IN ADDITION TO THE REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED BY SECTION 28-2003. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEPOSIT, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 35-146 AND 35-147, THE \$25 FEE AS A DONATION IN THE VETERANS' DONATIONS FUND ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 41-608.

Sec. 4. Section 28-6501, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

28-6501. Definition of highway user revenues

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires or except as otherwise provided by statute, "highway user revenues" means all monies received in this state from licenses, taxes, penalties, interest and fees authorized by the following:

1. Chapters 2, 7, 8 and 15 of this title, except for:

(a) The special plate administration fees prescribed in sections 28-2404, 28-2407, 28-2412 through 28-2470.39 and 28-2514.

(b) The donations prescribed in sections 28-2404, 28-2407, 28-2412 through 28-2415, 28-2417 through 28-2470.39, 28-2473, 28-2474, 28-2475, ~~and~~ 28-2476 AND 28-2477.

2. Section 28-1177.

3. Chapters 10 and 11 of this title.

1 4. Chapter 16, articles 1, 2 and 4 of this title, except as
2 provided in sections 28-5926 and 28-5927.

3 Sec. 5. Section 41-608, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
4 read:

5 41-608. Veterans' donations fund; transfer; grants

6 A. The veterans' donations fund is established consisting of
7 monies, gifts and contributions donated to the department and monies
8 deposited pursuant to sections 28-2414, 28-2428, 28-2431, 28-2447,
9 28-2454, 28-2470.10, 28-2473, 28-2474, 28-2475, 28-2476, 28-2477 and
10 43-620. The department shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are
11 continuously appropriated. The monies in the fund are exempt from the
12 provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of appropriations. The
13 department shall annually transfer fifteen percent of all revenues
14 received by the department that are deposited in the veterans' donations
15 fund pursuant to this section to the subaccount established pursuant to
16 section 41-608.01 in the state homes for veterans trust fund. The
17 department shall adopt rules or policies for grants of less than \$5,000
18 that encourage as much competition as practicable.

19 B. The director or the director's designee may solicit and receive
20 donations, including in-kind donations, from the public for veterans. The
21 director shall deposit, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, the
22 monetary donations in the veterans' donations fund. Monies in the fund
23 are subject to state auditing procedures. Except for monies deposited
24 pursuant to sections 28-2431 and 28-2447, the donations may be used for
25 the benefit of the veterans within this state as grants, subject to
26 chapter 24 of this title, if applicable.

27 C. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
28 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
29 section 28-2431, subsection C. The monies in the subaccount shall be used
30 for the construction and maintenance of the enduring freedom memorial
31 authorized pursuant to section 41-1363 for placement in Wesley Bolin
32 Plaza.

33 D. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
34 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
35 section 28-2447, subsection F. The monies in the subaccount shall be used
36 for the benefit of women veterans in this state, including providing
37 shelter to homeless women veterans as grants, subject to chapter 24 of
38 this title, if applicable.

39 E. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
40 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
41 section 28-2454, subsection C. The first \$32,000 in the subaccount shall
42 be reimbursed to the person that provides the \$32,000 pursuant to section
43 28-2454, subsection A. The director shall annually allocate monies from
44 the subaccount to a foundation that is qualified under section 501(c)(3)
45 of the United States internal revenue code for federal income tax purposes

1 and that is the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based
2 scholarships to children of United States military members. The
3 foundation must:

4 1. Have been in existence for at least fifty-two years.

5 2. Have provided more than thirty-three thousand scholarships that
6 are valued at almost \$90,000,000.

7 3. Have a mission that includes honoring marines and educating
8 their children.

9 4. Award scholarship monies to children of marines and navy
10 corpsmen who were killed or wounded in combat or who have demonstrated
11 financial need.

12 F. The director shall establish a separate subaccount in the
13 veterans' donations fund for the deposit of monies received pursuant to
14 section 28-2470.10, subsection C. The first \$32,000 in the subaccount
15 shall be reimbursed to the person that provides the \$32,000 pursuant to
16 section 28-2470.10, subsection A. The director shall annually allocate
17 monies from the subaccount to a foundation that is qualified under section
18 501(c)(3) of the United States internal revenue code for federal income
19 tax purposes. The foundation must:

20 1. Have been in existence for at least twenty years.

21 2. Have a mission that includes providing college scholarships to:

22 (a) The sons and daughters of those who have served the United
23 States honorably as soldiers in the United States army.

24 (b) The spouses of enlisted soldiers on active duty in the United
25 States army.

26 3. Envision increasing its fundraising and visibility to encourage
27 more applicants to apply for scholarships and to provide larger
28 scholarships to an increasing number of deserving applicants to both:

29 (a) Reward army families for the sacrifices that army soldiers make
30 every day to serve their nation.

31 (b) Help the spouses and children of army soldiers become leaders
32 in society.

33 4. Award scholarship monies to:

34 (a) Children of former United States army members who were killed
35 while serving in the United States army or who received an honorable
36 discharge or medical discharge.

37 (b) Children of United States army members in good standing serving
38 in regular active duty, active duty reserve or active duty national guard.

39 (c) Spouses of United States army members in good standing serving
40 in regular active duty, active duty reserve or active duty national guard.

41 G. The director shall inventory and account for the use of any
42 tangible personal property donated to the fund.

1 H. The department may use up to \$150,000 from the veterans'
2 donations fund each fiscal year to administer this section. In addition
3 to any other full-time equivalent positions authorized by law, the
4 department is authorized two full-time equivalent positions to administer
5 this section.

6 I. On notice from the director, the state treasurer shall invest
7 and divest monies in the fund as provided by section 35-313, and monies
8 earned from investment shall be credited to the fund.