Bill as Introduced

SB 405 - AS INTRODUCED

2002 SESSION

02-3141
03/09

SENATE BILL ***405***

AN ACT relative to special number plates for veterans.

SPONSORS: Sen. McCarley, Dist 6; Sen. Barnes, Dist 17; Sen. Below, Dist 5; Sen. Boyce, Dist 4; Sen. Burns, Dist 1; Sen. Cohen, Dist 24; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Disnard, Dist 8; Sen. Eaton, Dist 10; Sen. Fernald, Dist 11; Sen. Flanders, Dist 7; Sen. Francoeur, Dist 14; Sen. Gatsas, Dist 16; Sen. Gordon, Dist 2; Sen. Hollingworth, Dist 23; Sen. Johnson, Dist 3; Sen. Klemm, Dist 22; Sen. Larsen, Dist 15; Sen. O'Hearn, Dist 12; Sen. O'Neil, Dist 18; Sen. Pignatelli, Dist 13; Sen. Prescott, Dist 19; Sen. Roberge, Dist 9; Sen. Wheeler, Dist 21; Rep. Heon, Straf 14; Rep. Berube, Straf 14; Rep. Fields, Hills 18; Rep. Welch, Rock 18

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the director of the division of motor vehicles to prescribe the proof of honorable discharge required for issuance of special number plates for veterans.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

02-3141
03/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Two

AN ACT relative to special number plates for veterans.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Registration of Vehicles; Special Number Plates for Veterans; Proof of Honorable Discharge. Amend RSA 261:87-b to read as follows:

261:87-b Special Number Plates for Veterans. The director is hereby authorized to issue special number plates to be used on motor vehicles owned by veterans of the United States armed services, in lieu of other number plates. The design of these special plates shall be determined by the commissioner, and shall be distinct from the design or designs of those plates issued under RSA 261:86. Such plates shall be issued only upon application and proof of honorable discharge from the armed services, as [~~evidenced by submission of a copy of the applicant's DD214 verification of service form~~] ***prescribed by the director***, and upon payment of a one time $25 fee to recover production and administrative costs that shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee and any other number plate fees otherwise required. Renewals of such special number plates shall be charged the fee assessed for standard motor vehicles as prescribed under RSA 261:141. The plates furnished pursuant to this section are non-transferable and shall expire upon the death of the veteran.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Committee Minutes

Date: January 29, 2002
Time: 10:09 am
Room: 104, LOB

The Senate Committee on Transportation held a hearing on the following:

SB 405 relative to special number plates for veterans.

Members of Committee present: Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10:
Senator Robert B. Flanders, D. 7:
Senator Daniel P. O'Neil, D. 18:
Senator Burton J. Cohen, D. 24:

The Chair, Senator Thomas R. Eaton, opened the hearing.

Senator Caroline McCarley, D. 6: Thank you very much , Mr. Chairman. For the record my name is Caroline McCarley, I'm the State Senator for Senate District 6 which is comprised of the the communities of Rochester, Somersworth, Barrington and Nottingham. And I come before you today with a bill that actually the Senate had very good intentions of the passing back in December, and for various reasons that did not happen. So I'm just gonna, very briefly, remind everyone of the history of this bill. It was originally... the prime sponsor was Richard Heon in the House. I was the sponsor on it as were a number of others. The bill ran into some difficulties initially, but finally came out providing for special number plates for veterans. We unveiled those plates, as you may well remember, I believe the first week of December.

They're very attractive plates, but one of the things that happened in the process was that the language in the actual legislation originally passed made reference to a specific form that had to be presented by a Veteran in order to certify they were indeed a veteran. And that form turned out to be a form that was not used by the Armed Services until 1954. So we clearly had a problem. The legislature missed it. We all missed it. It was just simply an accident. When I heard about it, and knowing that sometimes the Senate can do things faster than the House, I approached the Senate President about putting in... and I talked with the Department about putting in, literally, a technical correction that would allow the Department to issue these plates.

Because the last intent any one had was to have veterans turned away when they came over to get their plates. There were other complications relative to the issuing of the plates. I don't know if Commissioner Steven wants to mentions those, but fundamentally, I attempted to sort of act in good faith to get this done quickly.

What it turned out had occurred is that the Attorney General's office had offered some language to the Department to allow the Commissioner to go ahead and issue these plates based on our intent. That took away the absolute need to pass the bill on a very fast track back in December. So it came back into the regular process, and what we have done is simply changed the wording that would allow the wording as you see it inserted in here prescribed by the director in terms of what they will honor for the appropriate types of discharge papers.

The feeling was, by the time we investigated a 1000 other forms and specifics we might want to list, sure as the world we were gonna miss something. So the decision was finally made to be allowed... be prescribed by the director. And, I think its still important to correct state law and make this change. The heightened emergency of it is no longer as great because indeed we've managed to figure out a way to have the Department do it. But this is an attempt... really it's a technical correction to the veteran's license plate issue last year. And I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you very much. Senator Jack Barnes.

Senator John S. Barnes, Jr., D. 17: Thank you Mr. Chairman. For the record for the second time, I'm Senator Jack Barnes, Jr. representing Senate District 17. Gardens spot of the State of New Hampshire as you all know and I don't want the amendment please, Mr. Chairman. I won't except an amendment on that.

Senator McCarley is absolutely right. I have to take some of the responsibility for the problem of this, but having been discharged in 1953 and having gone into the service in 1950, the 214... I should have picked up on the 214, but all my years I had believed that the 214... every one in the service had a 214 and obviously that isn't so. So that should be changed and brought up to date. It caused an awful lot of phone calls to certain people I'm sure and I'm sure the Department took a lot of heat about this in the newspaper. And it would be great if the committee could straighten that out for the future... so that problem goes away and its in the state law.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you very much. I believe that's the track this will take very quickly. Senator Beverly Hollingworth.

Senator Beverly A. Hollingworth, D. 23: I don't wish to speak. I'm just here in support and we have here today, the interns for Senator Larsen as well and they are as well.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: And Senator Larsen is in favor, yes. In addition to Senator Pignatelli, Senator Disnard, Senator Boyce, Rep. Dennis Field and the Senator Burt Cohen.

Senator Burton J. Cohen, D. 24: Thank you. I'll just be very brief. And since people are identifing their districts; I represent District 24, Portsmouth and surrounding towns. It's a very nice part of the state. I did have calls from constituents about this situation. And it was clearly an unintended consequence when we put in the DD214 in there. And this is something that should be easily correctable as always on unintended consequences of legislation, we all know that. And I just think its important to a lot of people. When your driving down the highway people... they notice the veterans plates, it's a source of pride and positive identification for people. And I'm looking forward to this going through and helping more people, who have been inadvertently left out, to be able to have that on their cars. Thank you.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Representative Heon.

Representative Richard Heon: Once again, good morning. For the record my name is Richard Heon. I'm a Representative from Somersworth which is Strafford 14. As mentioned by Senator McCarley, I was the prime sponsor on, it was HB 505 at the time which established special license plates for veterans. Every thing has been said about the complication we had with that language in reference to DD214. I would just like to add that Dennis Viola from the State Veteran Council and also the Commissioner's office that's a... Even today, I believe their working hand and hand on a daily basis to resolve some of the problems that have arisen by this language. I can't say enough as to the good work that they did in resolving this as quickly as they did. That was starting to get a little bit out of hand in the newspaper. We were taking a lot of flack over what we did and what we didn't do. I personally received calls from people saying that I intentially left out WWII and Korean Veterans and, you know, we're just happy after the long fight that veterans had to get this plate that we have a plate now. And it's a very... it's a very...I think it's one the most beautiful plates out there. But this is a technical change as was said before me and we hope we can take care of this as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you. We also have Senator Gary Francoeur in favor and Dennis Viola and Assistant Commissioner John Steven to speak.

John Steven: Real brief. For the record Assistant Commissioner John Steven; Department of Safety. I applaud again, the Senators, for bringing this to your attention. I think this is a technical issue we need to correct. And I believe Senator McCarley was, you know, right on to this issue from day one and wanting to push this through quickly. And when the AG's office gave us the opinion that we could still issue them based on the intent; we felt comfortable but yet, we still want to have it in the law clearly so in the future there's no issues what so ever. And if you look at these plates today you ought to be very proud that, you know, our state has put together a plate that I think is one of the nicest veterans plates in the country. I mean, we looked at all kinds of other states and the Commissioner and the Director took hours and hours of time to design and put it together. Talked to a lot of the folks involved in the Veteran Administration, but when you see that plate in New Hampshire; that plate just stands out. It just makes me cringe when I see it and I look at some of these veterans and I kind of want to applaud them as well, you know, for the great effort they've done in the past. So. Please when you see that plate think about what a great job they've done for us. And again, we want to support this and I would hope that we can fast track this bill.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Thank you, Commissioner Steven. And I do have to echo that remark because it is a handsome point. Very, very nicely done. Anyone else wish to speak for the third time.

Senator John S. Barnes, Jr., D. 17: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd just like the Chairman to realize that the entire Senate is on this bill to co-sponsor.

Senator Thomas R. Eaton, D. 10: Appreciate your mentioning that. Yes, thank you. I will close the hearing on SB 405.

Close at 10:20 am

Speakers

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Date 1/29/02 Time 9:30AM Public Hearing On SB 405

Appearing in **FAVOR**: *(Please print)* *Please check box at left to speak.*

Speaking?	Name	Address	Representing
☐	Sen. Gary R. Francoeur	SH, RM 102	Cosponsor
☐	Dennis K Fields	State Rep	Co-Sponsor Manchester
☐	Jack Danies, JR		
☐	Sen Robt Boyce	Dist 4	
☑	John Stephen	Safety	
☐	Dennis Viola,	State Veterans Council	
☑	Rep. Richard Hoem	Strafford 14	
☑	Sen Burt Cohen		cosponsor
☐	Sen Pignatelli		Dist 13 co-sponsors
☐	Sen Disnard		Dist 8 co-sponsors
	Sen Larsen / Beverly Hollenbeck		

Appearing in **OPPOSITION**: *(Please Print)* *Please check box at left to speak.*

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Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date:

THE COMMITTEE ON Transportation

to which was referred Senate Bill 405

AN ACT relative to special number plates for veterans.

VOTE: 4-0

Having considered the same, report the same without amendment and recommend that the bill: **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator Caroline McCarley
For the Committee

|SB405 Docket

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Bill Title: relative to special number plates for veterans.

Date	Body	Description
1/2/2002	**S**	Introduced and Ref. to Transportation; SJ 1, Pg.12
1/17/2002	**S**	Hearing; January 29, 2002, Room 104, LOB, 9:30 a.m.; SC5
1/29/2002	**S**	Committee Report; Ought to Pass, [01/31/02]; SC8A
1/31/2002	**S**	Ought to Pass, MA, VV; OT3rdg, MA, VV; SJ 4, Pg.65
1/31/2002	**H**	Introduced and ref to Transportation; HJ20, p736
2/6/2002	**H**	Copy to Chairman on 2/7/2002
2/12/2002	**H**	Hearing Feb 19 10:00 RM203,LOB
3/13/2002	**H**	Maj Report OTP/AM for Mar 21 (vote 12-0;CC)
3/13/2002	**H**	Prop Comm Am{2824}; HC24, p941
3/21/2002	**H**	Passed with Am; HJ28, p1105-1106 + 1137
4/25/2002	**S**	Sen. Eaton Concur with House Amendment {2824}, MA, VV
5/2/2002	**S**	Enrolled;
5/2/2002	**H**	Enrolled;

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Docket Abbreviations