

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

HB 1415-FN, establishing a special veterans license plate and creating a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates and establishing the New Hampshire first for veterans program and authority.

Hearing Date: March 11, 2026

Time Opened: 9:11 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:28 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Altschiller

Bill Analysis: This bill authorizes a special veterans license plate and establishes a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates.

This bill also establishes the first for veterans program, a program designed to attract, retain, and support veterans in the state.

Sponsors:

Rep. Roy

Rep. Devoid

Rep. D. Mannion

Rep. Rhodes

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Gannon

Who supports the bill: Eddie Edwards (DOS), Nicole Bixler (DMAVS), Brent Fraser (DMAVS), Kevin Grady (SVAC), Cory Stone, Eric Pauer, Karen Burnett-Kurie, and Tami Lanzillo Zeimetz.

Who opposes the bill: No one.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Nicole Bixler, Deputy Adjunct General of the Department of Military Affairs and Veteran Services:

- Ms. Bixler thanked the sponsors of HB 14-15 for putting this bill forward
- Ms. Bixler asked that the committee gives them more time to finalize some of the language.

- Ms. Bixler gave the example of the size of the board not needing to be as large as currently written.
- Ms. Bixler explained that the benefit of this license plate system is that it would generate profits that will then be sent back into veteran programs across the state.
- She stated that this legislation will help make New Hampshire more attractive for veterans.

Senator Pearl clarified that the area of concern is regarding the advisory commission.

Ms. Bixler responded that this is a concern as well as the redundancy in requiring state approval to have the Department of Safety design the plates themselves.

Eddie Edwards, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Safety and John Marasco, Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles

- Mr. Edwards voiced the support of the department.
- Mr. Edwards explained that the department shares the concerns expressed earlier.

Senator Reardon asked about the difference between the existing veteran's plate and the proposed military plate.

Mr. Edwards explained that the veteran plate is only for veterans, while anyone could sport the military plate to show their support.

Senator Reardon clarified that they are regular license plates.

Mr. Edwards responded that this plate would be an official New Hampshire license plate.

Senator Reardon asked if the department is concerned about the visual differences in the two plates.

Mr. Edwards explained that the department would design the proposed license plate uniquely although it would also require an education campaign.

Senator McGough asked how many different versions of veterans plates are currently available.

Mr. Marasco stated that the number of veteran specific plates is between 5-7.

Senator McGough asked if the importance of military support could be done through a decal program similar to others in New Hampshire.

Mr. Marasco responded that these programs take the DMV out of the equation and could result in effective fundraising being limited. He added that this would make the military plate stand out.

Mr. Marasco added that new plate printing technology would mean the state can make any type of license plate on demand rather than scheduling the same plates to be made together.

Senator Pearl asked when this technology should be available to the state.

Mr. Marasco responded that this could be as early as the fall barring any disruptions.

Senator McGough asked if EMS has a certified plate.

Mr. Marasco deferred the question to Jennifer O’Leary of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Ms. O’Leary explained that the decals are only distributed to veterans. She added that she believes decals exists for fire departments.

Kevin Grady of the State Veterans Advisory Committee.

- Mr. Grady explained that the state moved to the decal program to satisfy the public desire for certain license plates without a large fiscal impact.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.