

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1018

SPONSOR: Senator Latvala

SUBJECT: Motor Vehicle Licenses

DATE: March 1, 1999 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Caridi</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill enables an unremarried spouse of a deceased Purple Heart medal recipient to continue to receive a license plate which is stamped with the words "Purple Heart" and a likeness of the Purple Heart medal followed by a serial number.

This bill creates section 320.089(3), of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

There is currently no provision for unremarried spouses of Purple Heart medal recipients to receive the Purple Heart license plate. Florida law does provide for spouses of former prisoners of war to receive the "Ex-POW" license plate upon application to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) in s. 320.089(2), F.S.

Section 320.089, F.S., provides owners or lessees of privately used automobiles, trucks, or recreational vehicles as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d), who are Florida citizens, have provided proof of receipt of the Purple Heart medal, and have paid the appropriate license taxes, to receive a plate stamped with the words "Purple Heart" and the likeness of the medal followed by a serial number.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill will allow, upon application accompanied by proof that the applicant is the unremarried spouse of a Purple Heart medal recipient, spouses of the deceased recipient to continue to receive the stamped "Purple Heart" plate. Unremarried spouses must also have paid the required fees and be an owner or lessee of a privately used automobile, truck or recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d).

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Unremarried spouses of deceased Purple Heart medal recipients can continue to be eligible to receive the "Purple Heart" stamped license plate.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Because unremarried spouses of deceased Purple Heart medal recipients would be able to choose to retain the license plate stamped with "Purple Heart", there will be a nominal financial impact to the department in loss of initial replacement fees for new tags in the approximate amount of \$10 per new tag plus appropriate taxes. There are currently 21,700 issued Purple Heart plates. The number of unremarried spouses who would avail themselves of the ability to retain the plate is unknown.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The department recommends adding the word "*surviving*" to the descriptive phrase "*unremarried spouse*." This language would match the language that makes the "Ex-POW" plate available to the "*surviving unremarried spouse*."

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
