

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 88

INTRODUCER: Senator Simpson

SUBJECT: Gold Star License Plates

DATE: November 2, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jones	Eichin	TR	Favorable
2.			MS	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 88 allows additional family members related to service members who have been killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces to qualify for issuance of the Gold Star license plate upon payment of the appropriate license tax and fees.

II. Present Situation:

The Gold Star license plate is a special license plate developed to honor the family members of service members who have been killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.¹ The plate is only available to a spouse, legal mother or father, or stepparent currently married to the mother or father of a fallen service member.²

The surviving spouse and a surviving parent of a service member who resided in Florida at the time of his or her death will be issued, upon application providing proof of relationship to the service member and proof from the U.S. Government that the service member was killed while serving, one Gold Star license plate per household at no charge.³

An additional parent or a stepparent currently married to the mother or father of the fallen service member, or a surviving spouse or legal parent of the fallen service member who is not eligible for the *free* Gold Star plate is eligible to receive a Gold Star plate upon application providing proof of the relationship to the service member, documentation that the service member was killed while serving, and payment of the appropriate license tax and fees.⁴

¹ Section 320.0894, F.S.

² *Id.*, The Gold Star plate is issued to the owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use, weighing not more than 7,999 pounds, or recreational vehicle, and may not be issued to for hire or commercial use vehicles.

³ Section 320.0894(3)(b), F.S.

⁴ Section 320.0894(4), F.S.

As of August 2015, there were 564 active Gold Star registrations statewide.⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill adds, upon payment of the appropriate license tax and fees, a parent through adoption, foster parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, adopted child, brother, sister, half-brother, or half-sister of a fallen service member is eligible to be issued a Gold Star license plate upon application for the plate, providing proof of relationship to the service member, and documentation that the service member was killed while in service.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

An eligible family member who chooses to receive a Gold Star license plate will pay the same tax and fees as he or she would if issued a standard license plate.⁶

An individual will pay a \$28 new license plate fee if a Gold Star plate is replacing any plate prior to the 10-year forced replacement of the license plate.⁷

C. Government Sector Impact:

The state will pay a \$2.82 manufacturing fee for each additional Gold Star license plate issued.⁸ The bill may result in significantly more individuals qualifying for and obtaining

⁵ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *SB 88 Agency Bill Analysis*, (Aug. 24, 2015) (on file with the Senate Committee on Transportation).

⁶ License taxes vary based on type and weight of vehicle. *See* s. 320.08, F.S.

⁷ Email from the DHSMV (Oct. 27, 2015) (on file with the Senate Committee on Transportation).

⁸ *See Id.* The cost for a regular graphic plate is \$1.57.

a Gold Star license plate, however the DHSMV is unable to forecast the potential increase.⁹

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Tax Collector offices issuing Gold Star license plates may find it difficult to verify some of the added family members' relationship to the deceased service member.¹⁰

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 320.0894 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

⁹ DHSMV Analysis, *supra* note 5.

¹⁰ *Id.*