



August 9, 2013

## **Registration and Title Bulletin # 020-13 Specialty Plate**

**TO:** All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

**SUBJECT:** **Military Specialty License Plates, 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session**

### **PURPOSE**

To provide you a summary of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session, Texas Legislature bills regarding new military specialty license plates.

### **DETAILS**

The following is a summary of each of the new military specialty license plates as well as existing military specialty license plates that have a fee or policy change; all are effective September 1, 2013.

### **NEW MILITARY LICENSE PLATES**

#### **Defense Superior Service Medal - HB 120 / SB 563**

This plate can be issued to recipients of the Defense Superior Service Medal. The award honors those who have rendered superior meritorious service while serving in a position of great responsibility, generally for a period of time exceeding 12 months, and as part of a joint assignment. The license plates will include the words "Defense Superior Service Medal." Plate holders are exempt from the payment of parking meter fees collected by a government entity. This plate will also be available as a Disabled Veteran license plate. There will be no plate fee, registration fee, or local fees for the first set, and no plate fee for subsequent sets, but registration fees and local fees will apply.

#### **Air Medal and Air Medal with Valor - HB 2485**

These plates can be issued to recipients of the Air Medal and Air Medal with Valor. The license plates will include the Air Medal emblem and include the words "Air Medal." Air Medal with Valor license plates that are not personalized must include the letter "V" as a prefix or suffix to the numerals on each plate. Plate holders are exempt from the payment of parking meter fees collected by a government entity. This plate will also be available as a Disabled Veteran license plate. There will be no plate fee, registration fee, or local fees for the first set, and no plate fee for subsequent sets, but registration and local fees will apply.

#### **U.S. Coast Guard Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy - SB 165**

These plates can be issued to graduates of the Coast Guard or Merchant Marine Academies. There is no plate fee, but registration and local fees will apply.

**Disabled Veteran with Service Branch - SB 530**

This creates five new Disabled Veteran license plates. These license plates will include an emblem from one of the five service branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Applicants must meet the current disabled veteran eligibility requirements. There is a \$3 plate fee, but no registration or local fees for the first set, and no plate fee for subsequent sets, but registration and local fees will apply.

**Enduring Freedom Afghanistan - SB 597**

This plate can be issued to persons who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The license plate will include the words "Enduring Freedom Afghanistan." There is no plate fee, but registration and local fees will apply.

**Retired Military - SB 1376**

This creates five new military specialty license plates. The license plates will include the word "Retired" for each current license plate of the five branches of service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. These plates can be issued to retired members of the armed forces who have completed 20 or more years of satisfactory federal service. A letter recognizing the required years of service from any branch of the military under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Defense or the United States Department of Homeland Security is proof of eligibility. There is no plate fee, but registration and local fees will apply.

**EXISTING MILITARY LICENSE PLATES****World War II - HB 1514**

Plate holders of the World War II plates can park for free at most government parking meters (does not include federal government).

**Surviving Spouse Disabled Veteran - HB 1678**

Currently, this plate has no plate fee, but registration and local fees apply, and only one set is issued per person. This legislation now requires a \$3 plate fee, but no registration or local fees for the first set, and subsequent sets may be issued with no plate fee, but registration and local fees will apply.

Applicable VTR forms and publications will be updated.

**COUNTY ACTION**

Review the new plates and changes above and distribute as appropriate.

**CONTACT**

If you have any questions, please contact your local TxDMV Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,



Randy Elliston, Director  
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division