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Indicates New Matter

AMENDED

March 25, 2009

**S. 255**

Introduced by Senator L. Martin

S. Printed 3/25/09--S.

Read the first time January 13, 2009.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑3310 OF THE 1976 CODE, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF PURPLE HEART SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THERE IS NO FEE FOR UP TO TWO LICENSE PLATES AND THE BIENNIAL FEE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PURPLE HEART LICENSE PLATES IS THE SAME AS THE FEE PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 3 OF THIS TITLE.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 56‑3‑3310 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑3‑3310. The department may issue ~~a~~ no more than four permanent special motor vehicle license ~~plate~~ plates to a recipient of the Purple Heart for use on ~~a~~ his private passenger motor ~~vehicle~~ vehicles or ~~motorcycle~~ motorcycles. There is no fee for the issuance of up to four license ~~plate~~ plates~~, and not more than two license plates may be issued to a person~~. The application for a special plate must include proof the applicant is a recipient of the Purple Heart.”

SECTION 2. Section 56‑3‑7650 of the 1976 Code, as amended by Act 347 of 2008, is further amended to read:

“Section 53‑3‑7650. The Department of Motor Vehicles may issue ‘Korean War Veterans’ special license plates to owners of private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles registered in their names who are Korean War Veterans who served on active duty in Korea at anytime during the Korean War or veterans who served on active duty during the period of the Korean War. The applicant must present the department with a DD214 or other official documentation that states that he served on active duty in Korea upon initial application for this special license plate or on active duty during the period of the Korean War. The requirements for production and distribution of the plate are those set forth in Section 56‑3‑8100. The biennial fee for this plate is the regular registration fee set forth in Article 5, Chapter 3 of this title plus an additional fee of twenty dollars. Any portion of the additional twenty‑dollar fee not set aside by the Comptroller General to defray costs of production and distribution must be distributed to the state general fund.”

SECTION 3. Section 56‑3‑1240 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 347 of 2008, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑3‑1240. License plates issued for motor vehicles must be attached to the outside rear of the vehicle, open to view, except that on truck tractors and road tractors the plates must be attached to the outside front of the vehicle. Every license plate, at all times, must be fastened securely in a horizontal and upright position to the vehicle for which it was issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging. However, if a motorcycle is equipped with vertically mounted license plate brackets, its license plate must be mounted vertically with its top fastened along the right vertical edge. The bottom of the plate must be at a height of not less than twelve inches from the ground in a place and position clearly visible as provided in Section 56‑5‑4530, and it must be maintained free from foreign materials and in a clearly legible condition. No other license plate, lighting equipment, except as permitted in Section 56‑5‑4530, tag, sign, monogram, tinted cover, or inscription of metal or other material may be displayed above, ~~around,~~ or upon the plate other than that which is authorized and issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of validating the plate. It is not unlawful to place a decal or a frame on the license plate if it does not obscure any letters or numbers. A motor vehicle owner may attach a trailer hitch to a motor vehicle provided the hitch does not obscure more than two inches of the license plate issued to the motor vehicle. It is unlawful to operate or drive a motor vehicle with the license plate missing and a person who is convicted for violating this section must be punished as provided by Section 56‑3‑2520.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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