**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑1150, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO FORMER PRISONER OF WAR VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND LICENSE PLATES, SO AS TO REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION OF HIS PRISONER OF WAR STATUS FROM THE UNITED STATES VETERANS’ ADMINISTRATION OR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑3310, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE FOR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS, SO AS TO REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION OF HIS RECEIPT OF THE PURPLE HEART FROM THE APPROPRIATE BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, VETERANS’ ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, OR THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART.

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

SECTION 1. Section 56-3-1150 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56-3-1150. A member or former member of the armed forces who was a prisoner of war (POW) in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict, and who is a legal resident of this State, may make application for registration and licensing of his private passenger motor vehicle to the Department of Motor Vehicles without paying the usual fee for registration and licensing of a vehicle of similar type. The department shall issue the license plate or the revalidation sticker upon receipt of the application in a form required by the department. The application shall include certification of the applicant’s prisoner of war status from the United States Veteran’s Administration or Department of Defense. The provisions of this section do not apply if the former POW applies for a special personalized motor vehicle license plate under the provisions of Section 56‑3‑2010. The department may issue or transfer a special POW motor vehicle license plate to a vehicle owned or leased by a former POW or his surviving spouse. A former POW or surviving spouse who is issued a license plate under the provisions of this section ~~or surviving spouse~~ is not required to reapply so long as the former POW or surviving spouse owns the vehicle for which the plate is issued. The plate shall bear the words ‘South Carolina’, the number, and prefix ‘POW’.

The surviving spouse of a former POW, after notice to the department, may retain the plate and is entitled to all the privileges of the POW for the lifetime or until remarriage of the surviving spouse.”

SECTION 2. Section 56-3-3310 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 247 of 2008, is further amended to read:

“Section 56-3-3310. The department may issue a permanent special motor vehicle license plate to a recipient of the Purple Heart for use on a private passenger motor vehicle or motorcycle. There is no fee for the license plate, 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.~~ The application for the Purple Heart license plate shall include certification from the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces, Veterans’ Administration, Department of Defense, or the Military Order of the Purple Heart that the applicant has been awarded the Purple Heart.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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