**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑1150 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO FREE VEHICULAR REGISTRATION FOR FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR, TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECTION APPLIES TO ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR REGARDLESS OF WHEN IT IS AWARDED OR THE CONFLICT OR WAR INVOLVED; AND TO AMEND SECTION 12‑37‑220(B)(29), RELATING TO GENERAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VEHICLES THAT IS AFFORDED TO FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR APPLIES TO ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR REGARDLESS OF WHEN IT IS AWARDED OR THE CONFLICT OR WAR INVOLVED.

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) A member or former member of the armed forces who ~~was a~~ is a former prisoner of war (POW), as defined in 38 USC Section 101(32) ~~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 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 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’.

(B) 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 12‑37‑220(B)(29) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(29) two private passenger vehicles or trucks, not exceeding three‑quarter ton, owned or leased by and licensed and registered in the name of any member or former member of the armed forces who ~~was a~~ is a former prisoner of war (POW), as defined in 38 USC Section 101(32) ~~in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam Conflict~~ and who is a legal resident of this State. This exemption also extends to the surviving spouse of a qualified former POW for the lifetime or until the remarriage of the surviving spouse;”

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

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