

Senate Transportation Committee

Kat Bourque 271-3091

HB 88-FN, relative to the motor vehicle registration fees for disabled veterans.

Hearing Date: March 21, 2017

Time Opened: 1:03 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:12 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Watters, Ward and Gannon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators McGilvray and Birdsell

Bill Analysis : This bill allows a veteran who is an amputee, paraplegic, or blind as a result of a service-connected disability to select which special number plate he or she is eligible for without having to pay registration and number plate fees.

Sponsors :

Rep. Baldasaro

Rep. Theberge

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Weyler

Rep. Major

Rep. R. Ober

Rep. Katsakiores

Rep. Steven Smith

Rep. Burt

Sen. Carson

Who supports the bill: Rep. Massimilla, Rep. Smith

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: Chris Ialuna (DMV)

Summary of testimony presented in support :

Rep. Baldasaro

Prime Sponsor

- This bill allows a veteran who is an amputee, paraplegic, or blind as a result of a service-connected disability to select which special number plate he or she is eligible for without having to pay registration and number plate fees.
- This bill is essentially an administrative fix for the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Rep. Baldasaro explained that this issue arose from a constituent, whose name was second on a registration, and was not given the privileges as a veteran. The veteran must be first on the registration, but this seems to be confusing under law. This legislation seeks to fix that issue.
- A second issue surrounding Purple Heart Plates shows that a disabled veteran may not qualify for a Purple Heart Plate. Under this legislation, they can choose that plate as a disabled veteran.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition : N/A

Neutral Information Presented:

Chris Ialuna

DMV

- The Department does not oppose the bill as it is written.
- They brought to attention SB 204 that was passed by the Transportation Committee which deals with similar issues.
- The Department, after finding out there was no law in place regarding who is first or second on the registration, has now put this in to practice. They do not have an issue with this being in law, however.
- The third section of this bill has already been passed under SB 204, which deals with fees.
- Senator Watters stated that he does not understand why there would be a conflict between this bill and SB 204. Mr. Ialuna explained that SB 204 and HB 88 fall under the same topics. Ms. Bielecki explained that the amended version of SB 204 included all veteran categories, including prisoners of war and Pearl Harbor survivors. This bill, HB 88, does not reflect that. She would recommend that HB 88 incorporate the same language of SB 204 to reflect what the committee has already passed.

Future Action: Pending

KAB

Date Hearing Report completed: March 22, 2017