

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB138**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 05, 2019  
**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications  
**Introducer:** Blood  
**One Liner:** Provide for additional Military Honor Plates and Support Our Troops Plates

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hilgers, Hughes  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Carol Blood  
Gregory Holloway  
John Liebsack

**Representing:**

Introducer  
NE Veterans Council  
NE Veterans of Foreign Wars

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

This bill would allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to design and issue specialty license plates known as Support of Troops Plates. Four designs of these types of plates would be created, honoring persons who are serving or have served in the armed forces in Iran, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf War, and the Vietnam War.

Two types of plates would be issued by the department, one an alphanumeric plate, which would cost \$5, and a personalized message plate, with a maximum of five characters, which would cost \$70. The \$5 from the alphanumeric plate and \$52.50 from the message plate would go to the Veterans Employment Program Fund. This fund would be administered by the Department of Economic Development, with the funds being used for recruiting and education to attract veterans recently released from the service to live and work in Nebraska. Seventeen dollars and fifty cents (\$17.50) from the message plate would be credited to the DMV CashFund. Each design would be selected on the basis of limiting the manufacturing cost of each plate to an amount less than or equal to the amount charged for the issuance of license plates, which is currently a maximum of \$3.50 per plate.

Plates could be issued beginning January 1, 2021. The plates could be delivered by mail from the DMV or delivered by the DMV to the county treasurer in which the applicant resides, where they could be issued. Only vehicles part of a fleet would be ineligible to have such plates. Owners of farm trucks, trailers, semitrailers, and other vehicles could be issued the plates, but they would be required to have the appropriate tonnage decal, if applicable. The plates could be transferred to other vehicles for the normal charge of \$3. If the plates are lost, stolen, or mutilated replacement plates could be reissued for the normal fee of \$2.50 per plate.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee considered and adopted an amendment which accomplishes the following:

The amendment substitutes for the bill and revises the language of LB 138, as introduced, and in addition adds portions of the provisions of LB 696 and LB 697.

Amendments to original LB 138 provide for five additional Military Honor Plate designs, rather than four as in the original bill, by including Global War on Terrorism plates. It would also reduce the cost of an application for the new Support Our Troops plates from \$70 to \$40. It would change the agency administering the recruiting and education to attract veterans program from the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Finally, it would provide for an operative date of January 1, 2021, for all new plates.

The provisions of LB 696 incorporated into LB 138 include the substitution for National Guard Military Honor Plates with Army National Guard and Air National Guard Military Honor Plates, with an operative date of January 1, 2021.

The provisions of LB 697 that were incorporated into LB 138 include technical amendments requested by the DMV, a provision providing for elimination of the plate fee for Purple Heart, ex-POW, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Disabled American Veteran, and Gold Star plate applicants who qualify, and a waiver of the application fee for Purple Heart, ex-POW, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Disabled American Veteran, and Gold Star plate applicants, with the exception of Gold Star message plate applicants, who would pay the normal message plate application fee of \$40. The bill would provide all those types of plates would be permanent as long as the vehicle to which the plates are attached is properly registered by the applicant.

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Curt Friesen, Chairperson