

SENATE No. 2332

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam Gomez

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to registration fees for veterans' license plates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>6/22/2021</i>

SENATE No. 2332

By Mr. Gomez, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2332) of Adam Gomez and Adam J. Scanlon for legislation relative to registration fees for veterans' license plates. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to registration fees for veterans' license plates.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 2KKKKK, as inserted by section 1 of chapter 254 of the acts of 2020, the following
3 section:-

4 Section 2LLLLL. There shall be established and set up on the books of the
5 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Soldiers’ Home Trust Fund, hereafter referred
6 to as the fund. There shall be credited to said fund revenues received from the sale and renewal
7 of “VETERAN” distinctive registration plates and interest earnings thereon issued pursuant to
8 subsection (e) of section 2E of chapter 90. Amounts credit to the fund that are unexpended at the
9 end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

10 The fund shall be administered by the board of trustees of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke
11 and the board of trustees of the Soldiers’ Home in Massachusetts for the benefit of said Homes;

12 provided, that said boards of trustees may expend monies from the fund for the benefit of said
13 Homes without further appropriation.

14 The registrar of motor vehicles shall deposit all revenue received pursuant to said
15 subsection (e) of said section 2E of said chapter 90 for the sale and renewal of “VETERAN”
16 registration plates into the fund. Annually, not later than October 1, the board of trustees of the
17 Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke and the board of trustees of the Soldiers’ Home in Massachusetts
18 shall report to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on
19 transportation and the joint committee on veterans’ affairs on the fund’s activity.

20 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
21 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 218, the words “annual twenty dollar
22 fee” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- \$20 fee every 2 years.

23 SECTION 3. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
24 amended by striking out, in line 429, the words “annual twenty dollar fee” and inserting in place
25 thereof the following words:- \$20 fee every 2 years.

26 SECTION 4. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
27 amended by inserting, in line 463, after the word “VETERAN”, the following words:- ;
28 provided, that the registration fee for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles with
29 such “VETERAN” plates shall not exceed \$10.

30 SECTION 5. The fifteenth paragraph of said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing,
31 is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence.

32 SECTION 6. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
33 striking out, in line 485, the words “annual twenty dollar fee” and inserting in place thereof the
34 following words:- \$20 fee every 2 years.

35 SECTION 7. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
36 amended by striking out, in line 498, the words “annual twenty dollar fee” and inserting in place
37 thereof the following words:- \$20 fee every 2 years.

38 SECTION 8. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
39 amended by inserting, after the word “fee”, in line 518, the following words:- every 2 years.

40 SECTION 9. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
41 amended by striking out, in line 550, the word “annual \$20 fee”, and inserting in place thereof
42 the following words:- \$20 fee every 2 years.

43 SECTION 10. Section 2E of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
44 adding the following subsection:-

45 (e) The registrar shall furnish, upon application and pursuant to section 2, to owners of
46 private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles who are veterans, as defined in clause Forty-
47 third of section 7 of chapter 4 and upon presentation of evidence deemed satisfactory by the
48 registrar, distinctive registration plates bearing on the left side the word “VETERAN”. There
49 shall be a fee of not more than \$40 for such plates, in addition to the \$10 registration fee for
50 private passenger motor vehicles with “VETERAN” plates as provided in section 2, which shall
51 be payable at the time of registration of the vehicle and at each renewal thereof. The portion of
52 the total fee remaining after the deduction of costs directly attributable to the issuance of such

53 plates shall be directed to the Soldiers' Home Trust Fund established in section 2LLLLL of
54 chapter 29; provided, that such portion shall be not less than \$28 of the fee.

55 SECTION 11. Section 33 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
56 striking out, in line 7, the words " two years", and inserting in place thereof the following
57 words:- 2 years; and, provided further, that the registration fee for motor vehicles with
58 "VETERAN" plates shall not exceed \$10.

59 SECTION 12. Said section 33 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
60 amended by striking out clause (22) and inserting in place thereof the following clause:-

61 (22) No fee shall be exacted for the registration of a private passenger vehicle owned and
62 principally used by the following persons who are entitled to display thereon distinctive number
63 plates as authorized by section 2:

64 (i) former prisoners of war; (ii) members of the Legion of Valor of the United States of
65 America, Inc.; (iii) disabled veterans; (iv) recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor; (v)
66 awardees of the Iraqi Freedom Campaign Ribbon; (vi) recipients of the Purple Heart; (vii)
67 survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor; or (viii) recipients of the Silver Star, Bronze Star or
68 Distinguished Flying Cross. Said registration shall be renewed every 2 years without charge.

69 SECTION 13. Said section 33 of said chapter 90 is hereby further amended by striking
70 out clause (33).