

HCS SB 600 -- VETERANS

SPONSOR: Sater (Davis)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 15 to 0.

This bill contains provisions relating to veterans. The bill:

(1) Authorizes the issuance of a military medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation to any veteran who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam War as a member of the Missouri National Guard regardless of whether the veteran is a resident of Missouri.

(2) Creates two new medallion programs, "Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn Medallion Program" and the "Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm Medallion Program." Any veteran who served on active duty during certain dates, is a legal resident of this state, was a legal resident at the time of discharge from military service, or was a Missouri National Guard member regardless of residency is eligible for a medal of appreciation for service;

(3) Removes the additional fee charged for "Gold Star" license plates;

(4) Allows any woman who currently serves in any branch of the United States Armed Forces or was honorably discharged to apply for a special license plate bearing the words "WOMAN VETERAN" in place of the words "SHOW-ME STATE" for any motor vehicle except a commercial vehicle weighing over 18,000 pounds. To obtain this plate, a person must apply to the Director of the Department of Revenue, furnish proof of military service as the department director may require, and pay an additional \$15 fee. The plates are not transferable, but a registered co-owner may operate the vehicle with the plates for the duration of the year it is licensed in the event of the death of the qualified person; and

(5) Waives specified business fees when a specified organizer, majority shareholder, officer, director, or partner of a company, corporation, health services corporation, nonprofit corporation, cooperative company, or partnership is a member of the Missouri National Guard or any other active duty member of the military, resides in Missouri, and provides proof of service to the Secretary of State.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that it is not necessary to charge these family members extra for a personalized license, especially

considering a member of their family has made the ultimate sacrifice.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Sater and Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.