

HCS SB 600 -- VETERANS

This bill changes the laws regarding veterans. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Authorizes the issuance of a military medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation to any veteran who honorably 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 or ever was a legal resident of Missouri;

(2) Establishes the Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn Medallion Program and the Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm Medallion Program. Any veteran who honorably served on active duty in the United States military service during certain dates, is a legal resident of this state or was a legal resident at the time he or she entered or was discharged from military service or at the time of his or her death, or was a Missouri National Guard member regardless of residency is eligible for a medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation for his or her service;

(3) Requires each school district board to require each school in the district to conduct educational programs and activities and devote at least one class period leading up to a Veterans Day observance that conveys the meaning and significance of the day and allows November 11 to be included as a school holiday at the discretion of the district;

(4) Removes the additional \$15 annual application fee charged for a "Gold Star" special personalized license plate;

(5) Allows any woman who currently serves in any branch of the United States Armed Forces or was honorably discharged to apply for a special personalized license plate bearing the words "WOMAN VETERAN" in place of the words "SHOW-ME STATE" for any motor vehicle except an apportioned motor vehicle or a commercial vehicle licensed in excess of 18,000 pounds gross weight. 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 a \$15 fee in addition to the regular registration 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

(6) Requires specified mandated business fees and the fee for an application for the reservation of a name to be waived if 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 the service to the Secretary of State.