STATE OF NEW YORK

8887

IN ASSEMBLY

January 26, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. RAJKUMAR -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to registration and special plates for severely disabled veterans

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 404-a of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by chapter 601 of the laws of 1987, is amended to read as follows:

3. Registration of vehicles owned by severely disabled veterans. The commissioner shall assign to such motor vehicles, including any vans or pick-up trucks used for transporting handicapped veterans which are not used for commercial purposes and which are owned by such veterans or a not-for-profit corporation serving such veterans, a distinctive number and issue and deliver in such manner as the commissioner may prescribe to the owner a certification of registration, in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe and two number plates, called disabled veteran plates. Said severely disabled veteran plates shall conform to the requirements of section four hundred one of this [~~chapter~~] **article**, but shall bear distinctive marks to distinguish them from number plates to be issued to other persons, qualifying under this chapter. The commissioner [~~in his discretion,~~] may **exercise the discretion to** issue, for any registration year, only one plate as a set for a motor vehicle, in which event a set of severely disabled veteran plates for a motor vehicle shall consist of one plate. Where a severely disabled veteran owns more than one vehicle and such vehicle or vehicles is or are used by severely disabled members of the owner's family who reside with the owner, the commissioner shall issue one set of plates for each additional vehicle used by such severely disabled veteran, provided that such user qualifies as a severely disabled veteran in the manner required by this section. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "severely disabled veteran" shall mean any member of the armed forces of the United States who served [~~in time of war, as defined in section eighty-five of the civil service law~~] **and was honorably discharged or**

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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released under conditions other than dishonorable from such service, and whose disability qualifies [~~him~~] **such person** as a severely disabled person within the meaning of such term as defined in subdivision four of this section**; or who was rated sixty percent or more disabled by the United States department of veterans affairs**.

§ 2. Section 404-a of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6-a to read as follows:

6-a. Fee exemptions for severely disabled veterans. Notwithstanding subdivision six of this section and the fees prescribed or permitted by section four hundred one of this article, there shall be no charge for the issuance of a number plate pursuant to this section to a severely disabled veteran, nor shall there be imposed an additional service charge for the issuance of such plate to a severely disabled veteran. Furthermore, upon the issuance of a distinctive plate pursuant to this section, such severely disabled veteran shall be exempt from the payment of any fees relating to the registration or renewal thereof as prescribed by section four hundred one of this article.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.