# STATE OF NEW YORK

5869

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

# IN SENATE

March 20, 2023

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to authorizing the issuance of "Blue Star Mother" and "Blue Star Family" distinctive license plates; and to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the "blue star mothers and families support fund"

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

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 404-ff to read as follows:

**§ 404-ff. Distinctive "Blue Star Mother" and "Blue Star Family" license plates. 1. Any person residing in this state whose child, spouse, parent, sibling, or grandchild is actively serving in the armed forces of the United States shall, upon request, be issued a distinctive license plate bearing the words "Blue Star Mother" or "Blue Star Family", respectively. Application for said license plate shall be filed with the form and detail as the commissioner shall prescribe.**

**2. The distinctive plates authorized pursuant to this section shall be issued upon proof, satisfactory to the commissioner, that the applicant is the parent of an active duty service member, or the spouse, child, sibling, or grandparent of an active duty service member, in the same manner as other number plates upon the payment of the regular registration fee prescribed by section four hundred one of this article, provided, however, that an additional annual service charge of twenty-five dollars shall be charged for such plate.**

**3. Each twenty-five dollars received as the annual service charge under this section shall be deposited to the credit of the "blue star mothers and families support fund" established pursuant to section ninety-five-l of the state finance law and shall be used for blue star mothers and blue star families organizations as determined by the New York state division of veterans' affairs' division of veterans' services**

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

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pursuant to subdivision three of section ninety-five-l of the state finance law.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 95-l to read as follows:

§ 95-l. "Blue star mothers and families support fund". 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance and the comptroller, a special fund to be known as the blue star mothers and families support fund.

2. Such fund shall consist of all revenues received pursuant to section four hundred four-ff of the vehicle and traffic law, and all other moneys appropriated, credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts, or bequests for the purposes of the fund, as defined in this section, and depositing them into the fund according to law.

3. Monies of the fund shall be expended only by the New York state division of veterans' affairs' division of veterans' services. These funds shall be used for programs and organizations that support parents and family members of active duty members of the armed forces of the United States.

§ 3. 1. A distinctive plate established pursuant to section 404-ff of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by section one of this act, shall only be designed, produced and issued upon the delivery to the department of motor vehicles of a surety bond in the amount of $6,000, which shall be executed by a surety company authorized by the department of financial services to transact business in this state. Provided, however, that if the commissioner of motor vehicles shall have received prior to the plate design, production and issuance at least 200 orders for such distinctive plate together with the additional annual service charge applicable to each such order, which shall be non-refundable, no such surety bond shall be required. All such service charges shall be deposited pursuant to the provisions of section 404-oo of the vehicle and traffic law to the credit of the department of motor vehicles distinctive plate development fund established by section 95-l of the state finance law and shall be used for the design, production, advertising and distribution of distinctive license plates in accordance with such section 95-l.

2. If, upon the expiration of two years following the date upon which distinctive plates in the series are first available for sale, 200 or more sets of such plates are sold, a bond delivered pursuant to this section shall be discontinued. If fewer than 200 sets of such plates are sold by such time, the department of motor vehicles shall be entitled to recover against the bond an amount proportionate to such shortfall.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.